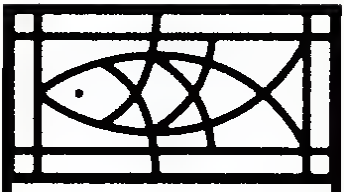

This manga bookstore has a thousand stories to tell.

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Story & Art by
Seimu Yoshizaki

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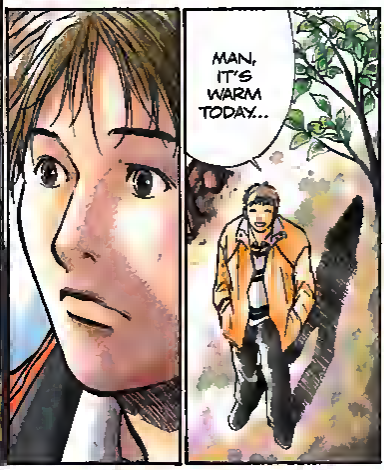
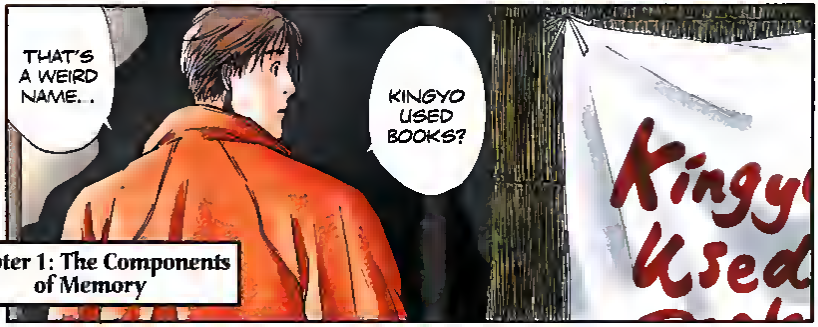
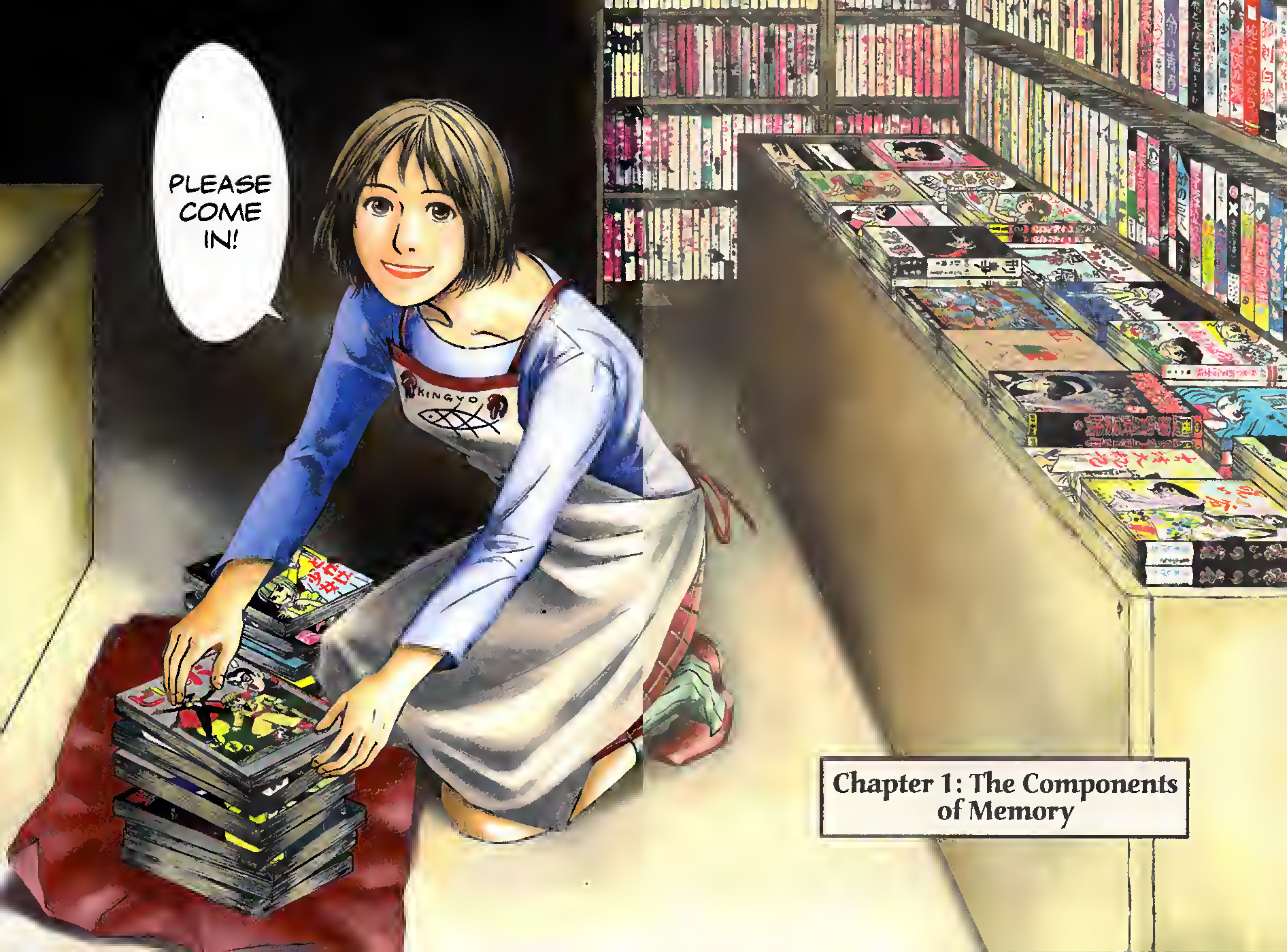




Chapter 1: The Components of Memory

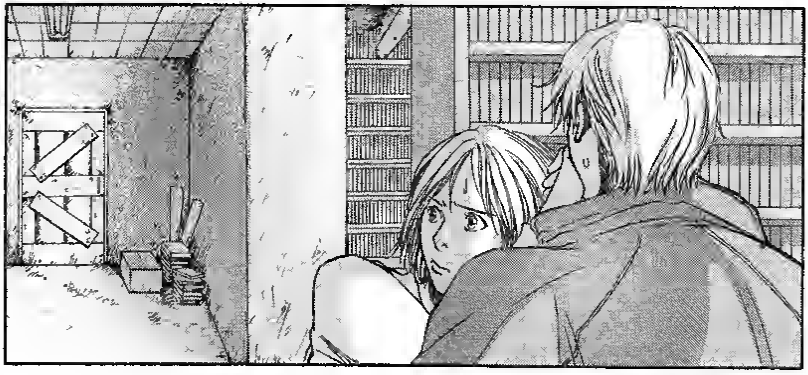


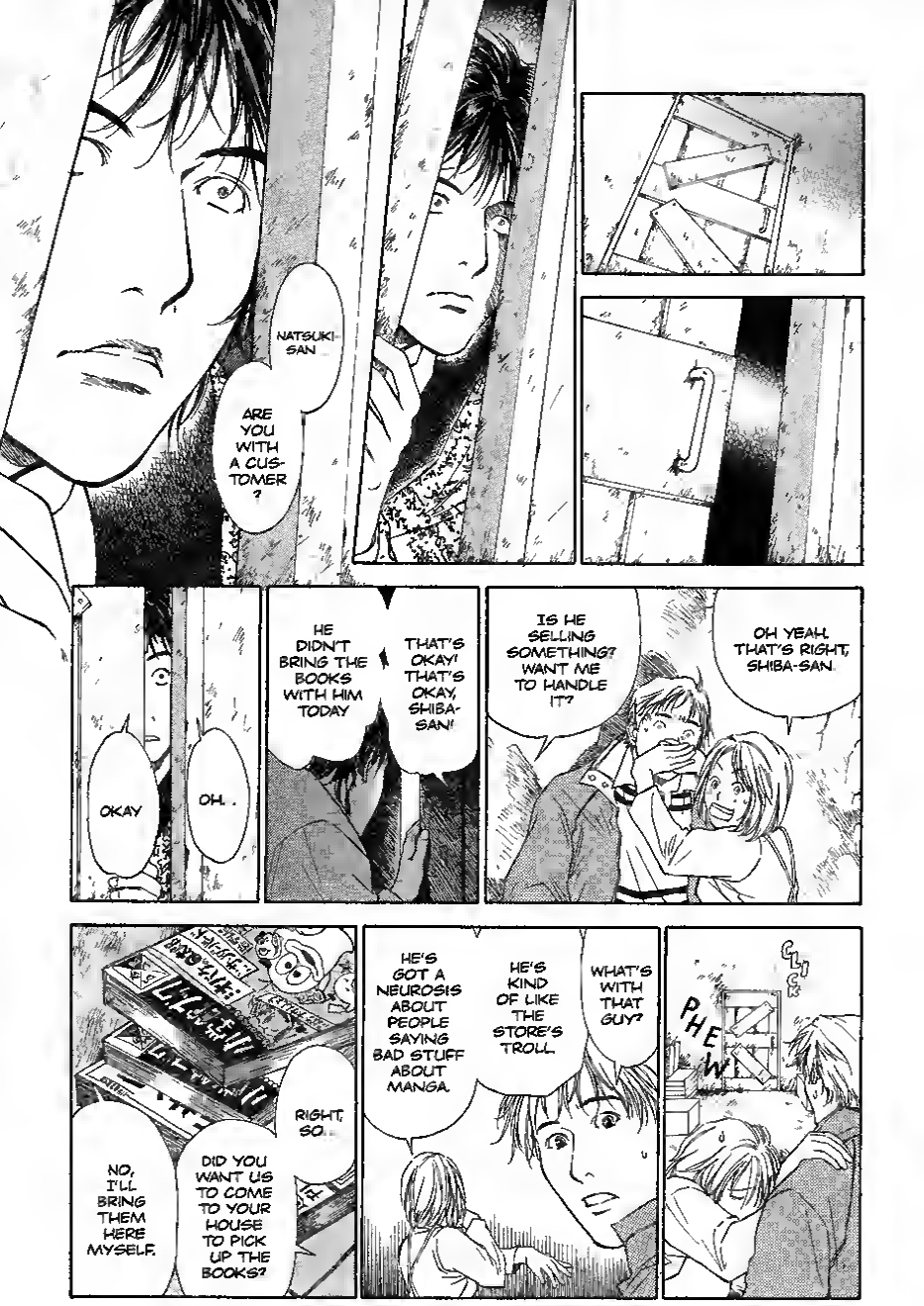
Chapter 1: The Components of Memory

WHOA ...
IS THERE A PARTIC-ULAR MANGA SERIES YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
THERE'S MANGA STACKED
CLEAR TO THE CEIL-ING
WHAT TITLE WERE YOU LOOKING FOR?
OH..
NO, THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.
I'D LIKE TO KNOW IF YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN BUYING ALL THE MANGA I HAVE AT HOME.
IT'S JUST BEEN IN THE WAY FOR AGES.

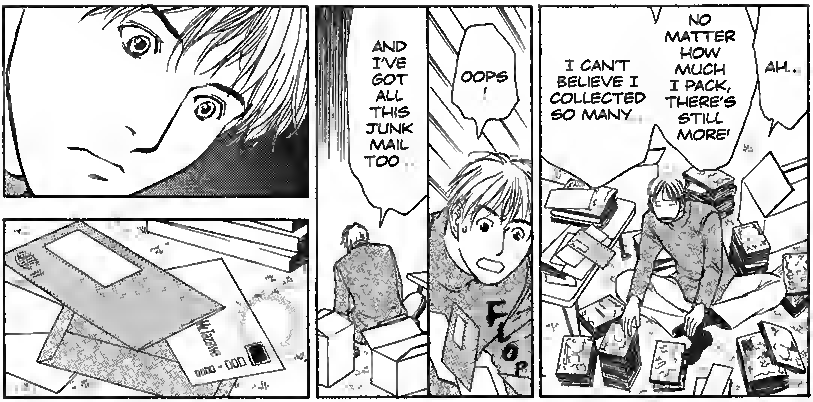
OH, YOU'RE LETTING GO OF YOUR COLLECTION?
I WOULDN'T CALL IT A "COLLECTION."
I'M NOT AN OTAKU OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT
IT'S JUST THAT ALL THE MANGA I BOUGHT TO READ ON MY COMMUTE HAS PILED UP.
MANGA TAKE UP SO MUCH SPACE. IT'S A REAL PAIN, YOU KNOW?
I MEAN, MY APARTMENT'S NOT THAT BIG
...AND THEY'RE NOT THE KIND OF THING YOU READ MORE THAN ONCE
BESIDES
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE.
IT'S KIND OF PATHETIC TO KEEP READING MANGA FOREVER.
I'M THINKING IT'S ABOUT TIME I STARTED READING SOMETHING ELSE, YOU...
OOMPH!!

SHH!
BE QUIET.
PPBT, OOMPH.
W-WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? ARE YOU UPSET? I WASN'T...
IN THE BACK OF THE STORE...
PERSONALLY I DON'T CARE, BUT...
IT'S NOT ME.

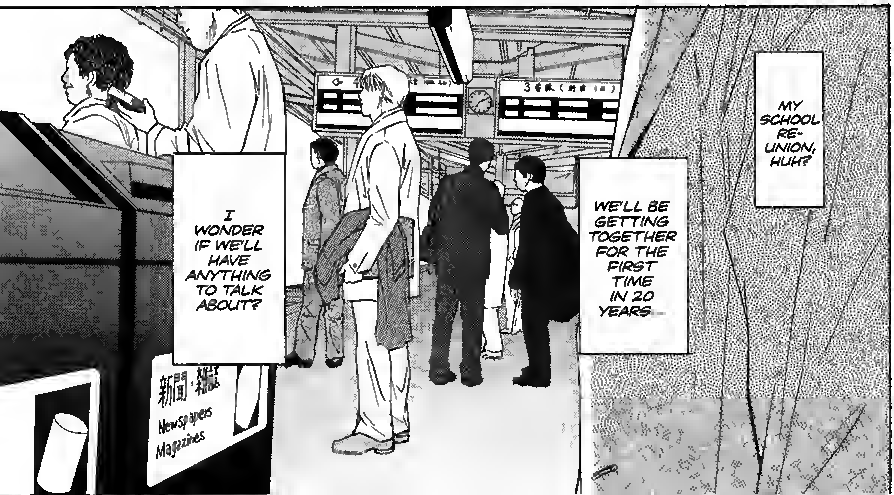



NATSUKI-SAN
ARE YOU WITH A CUSTOMER?
OKAY
OH...
HE DIDN'T BRING THE BOOKS WITH HIM TODAY
THAT'S OKAY! THAT'S OKAY, SHIBA-SAN!
IS HE SELLING SOMETHING? WANT ME TO HANDLE IT?
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, SHIBA-SAN.
NO, I'LL BRING THEM HERE MYSELF.
DID YOU WANT US TO COME TO YOUR HOUSE TO PICK UP THE BOOKS?
RIGHT, SO...
HE'S GOT A NEUROSIS ABOUT PEOPLE SAYING BAD STUFF ABOUT MANGA.
HE'S KIND OF LIKE THE STORE'S TROLL.
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?
PHEW

...
KINGYO USED BOOKS, HUH?
OKAY, WE'LL BE WAITING THEN
WHAT A WEIRD STORE...
WHAT AM I DOING GETTING CAUGHT UP READING?
UHK
OH ...
...
...
THERE'S NO END IN SIGHT HERE...
THIS ONE'S GOTTA GO TOO!


AH..
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PACK, THERE'S STILL MORE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I COLLECTED SO MANY
OOPS!
AND I'VE GOT ALL THIS JUNK MAIL TOO
FLOP

WHAT'S THIS?
City Elementary School Number 3
40th Reunion
Class 4-3
Reunion
SCHOOL REUNION?


MY SCHOOL RE-UNION, HUH?
WE'LL BE GETTING TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS
I WONDER IF WE'LL HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT?
Newspapers
Magazines

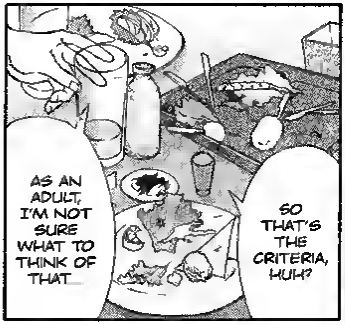
DAMMIT! DAY IN AND DAY OUT IT'S THE SAME OLD THING. I'M JUST SICK OF IT ALL!
OH YEAH
TODAY IS THURS-DAY
COUGH!
I WASN'T DONE YET
AW.

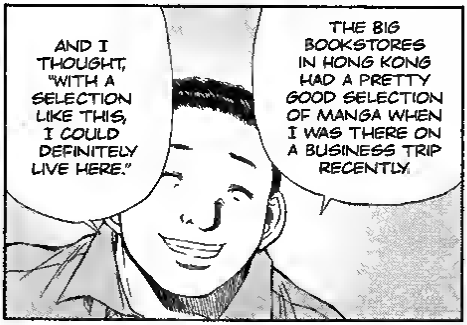
OH YEAH, I'M DOING FINE! CAN'T COM-PLAIN!
HEY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
MURANO? IT'S ME, TAZAWA.
HELLO!
NEXT TO THE FLOWER SHOP?
HUH ?
THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING IN FRONT OF KFC?
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT THIS MAP.
IS EVERY-BODY AL-READY THERE ?
OH MY GOSH, TAZAWA-KUN! LONG TIME NO SEE!
HEY, IT'S TAZAWA!
SO YOU FINALLY MADE IT!
OH, IT'S TAZAWA!

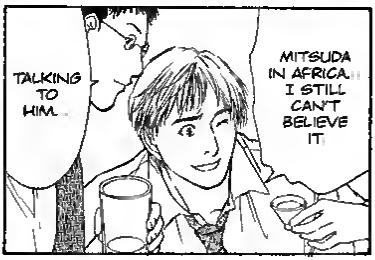
WE'RE MORE WEIRDED OUT BY NAGASE BRINGING A BABY ALONG
THAT'S A BIGGER SHOCK.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? WE'RE NOT IN SIXTH GRADE ANYMORE
THAT'S SO WEIRD!
EWW, ALL THE GUYS ARE DRINKING BEER.
MURANO TAKES CHARGE LIKE ALWAYS
ON TAP?
BEER ALL RIGHT?
HEY, MOVE IN! MOVE IN!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING!
IT COULD HAPPEN TO US, TAZAWA.
OOH.
LAID OFF, HUH? THAT'S BRUTAL.
LAID OFF?!
AT HIS AGE?!
APPAR-ENTLY HE GOT LAID OFF...
HEY, MURANO!
OH YEAH, WELL
I FIGURED HE'D SHOW UP TO SOME-THING LIKE THIS.
WHERE'S HASHI-ZUME?

HEY, TAZAWA.
HMM?
YOU REMEMBER MITSUDA?
HIS FATHER OWNED THE STATIONERY STORE, RIGHT?
WE HAD SWIM CLASS TOGETHER.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, HE'S
HEY, MURANO. WHAT IS IT? DON'T TELL ME HE'S..
OH NO, NO. HE'S NOT DEAD.
HE WENT TO AFRICA.
WOW, AFRICA?
WHAT'S HE DOING THERE?
HE'S WITH SOME SORT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
OH, AN NGO.
I THINK THAT WAS IT
GUESS WHAT HE TOLD ME?
WHAT ?
HE'S SPENDING MONTHS UNDER A BURNING SUN DISTRIBUTING DROUGHT-RESISTANT SEEDS AND MANURE
AND YET, HE SAID THE HARDEST PART OF LIVING IN AFRICA IS NOT BEING ABLE TO READ MANGA.

HAHAHAHA
WELL, HE CAN READ IT. BUT HE WAS COMPLAINING THAT HE CAN'T GET AS MUCH AS HE WANTS.
THAT'S THE HARDEST PART?!
NO MANGA?!


AS AN ADULT, I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO THINK OF THAT...
SO THAT'S THE CRITERIA, HUH?


AND I THOUGHT, "WITH A SELECTION LIKE THIS, I COULD DEFINITELY LIVE HERE."
THE BIG BOOKSTORES IN HONG KONG HAD A PRETTY GOOD SELECTION OF MANGA WHEN I WAS THERE ON A BUSINESS TRIP RECENTLY.


TALKING TO HIM...
MITSUDA IN AFRICA... I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

...WONDERING WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING HERE?
I STARTED THINKING ABOUT MYSELF...

NO, IT'S NOTHING.
I WAS JUST TALKING TO MYSELF
SORRY TO GIVE YOU SUCH A SERIOUS ANSWER THERE.
Y-YEAH.
TAZAWA, YOU'RE EMPTY
OH.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
TAZAWA KUN
PLOP
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
IS THIS YOUR DAUGHTER?
AYAKA-CHAN, HUH? WHAT A GOOD GIRL.
AYAKA.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
KYONO-SAN?
OH GOOD, I GOT IT RIGHT.

ACTUALLY, TAZAWA-KUN, I'VE...
HUH?
...BEEN WANTING TO GIVE YOU THIS FOR AGES.
DO YOU REMEMBER? YOU LENT IT TO ME A LONG TIME AGO.
I DID?
I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO RETURN IT, AND IT'S ALWAYS BOTHERED ME.
YOU HUNG ON TO IT ALL THIS TIME?
DR. SLUMP
JUMP COMICS
Dr. スランプ
#5
OH YEAH! EVEN AFTER I GOT MARRIED AND HAD A BABY..
...IT WAS ALWAYS IN THE BACK OF MY MIND. NOW I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER!
YOU SURE ARE AN HONEST PERSON, KYOUNO-SAN.
WELL, BACK THEN...
...WE ONLY GOT ¥500 ALLOWANCE, REMEMBER?

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I TOLD MY PARENTS I WAS GOING TO BUY STUDY DRILLS FOR SUMMER, AND SOMEHOW I STRETCHED THE MONEY THEY GAVE ME TO BUY THIS.
THAT'S RIGHT...
WE SELECTED WHICH BOOK TO BUY CAREFULLY...
MANGA COST OVER ¥300, SO THEY WERE A REAL LUXURY ITEM.
Oh...
I DIDN'T EVEN BUY ANY ICE CREAM...
WOW...
WHAT'S THAT? LET ME SEE IT.

AND THEN THERE WAS GANBARE GENKI.
I READ THIS ONE! I USED TO LOVE IT!
THIS REALLY TAKES ME BACK!
THAT'S RIGHT!
ORE WA TEPPEI WAS REALLY GOOD TOO!
HOW THE HECK WOULD YOU PRACTICE A PITCH LIKE THAT?
I WORKED REALLY HARD HOPING TO THROW A PITCH LIKE FUNAKI.
I WAS IN THE BASEBALL CLUB, SO I WAS REALLY INTO AKUTARE KYOJIN.
I RIDE A MOTORBIKE BECAUSE I USED TO READ 750 RIDER
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHAT IS THIS...
...JOLT OF ENERGY THAT I FEEL?

THE TEACHER CONFISCATED MY TSURIKICHI SANPEI.
OOH, I READ THAT ONE!
WITH THAT HUGE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT?
SHIRITSU GOKUDOU KOUKOU WAS SO AMAZINGLY MESSED UP!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS POWER?
Senbei was 28 years old!
A WAY TO ESCAPE THE REALITY OF OUR BORING LIVES?
IS THIS JUST SIMPLE NOST. L-GIA?
HOW BAD IS THAT?
...AND ALL THE TEACHERS WERE PASSING IT AROUND TO READ!
AND I COULDN'T GIVE IT UP, SO I SNUCK INTO THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE!!
HA HA HA
HEY TANABE, ARE YOU LISTENING?!
HMM?
WE'RE...
NO.
IT'S NOT THAT AT ALL.

THUNK
I'M TALKING ABOUT ARION!
I KNOW THAT SERIES. I READ THE WHOLE THING.
AND THE FIRST VOLUME IS THE ONE I LENT YOU!
HUH? IT IS?
I TREASURED THAT BOOK!
GIVE IT BACK RIGHT NOW, YOU...
IT SHOULD BE AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE
NOW WHERE WAS IT?
YOU'RE SO IRRESPONSIBLE!
WHAT? LISTEN TO YOU, MR. ELITE SECTION CHIEF, GOING ON AND ON ABOUT SOME OLD MANGA SERIES
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
HEY HEY, CALM DOWN YOU TWO.
LET'S ALL BE FRIENDS
WHAT IS IT, TAZAWA?
I JUST REMEMBERED A GOOD PLACE
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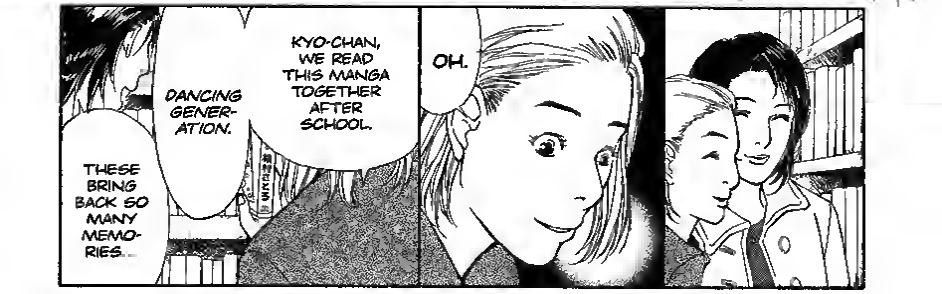
LET'S ALL GO OVER THERE RIGHT NOW.

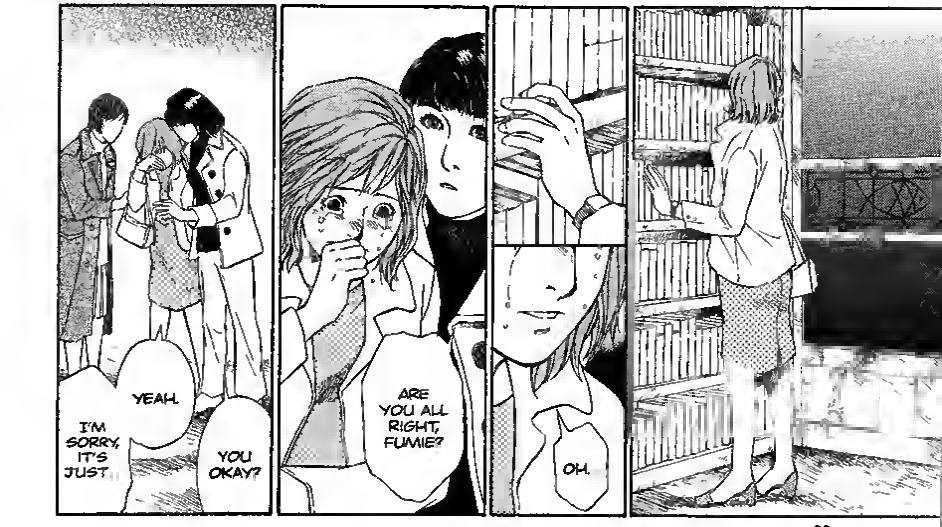
STUDY! GANBARE GENKI BY YUU KOYAMA. PUBLISHED IN WEEKLY SHONEN SUNDAY IN 1978. SHONEN MAGAZINE IN 1978. 750 RIDER BY ISAMI ISHII PUBLISHED IN WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP IN 1976. BASEBALL MANGA ABOUT COMPETITIVE TEAMS IN THE PROFESSIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE. ...E WA TENSAI BY TETSUYA CHIBA. PUBLISHED IN WEEKLY CHAMPION IN 1975. ...AKUTARE RYOJIN BY YOSHIHITO TAKAMASU

STUDY!

SHIRITSU GOKUDO KOKO WAS AKIRA HIYASHITA'S DEBUT WORK PUBLISHED IN *WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP* IN 1979. *TSURIKICHI SANPEI* BY TAKAO TAGUCHI PUBLISHED IN *WEEKLY SHONEN MAGAZINE* IN 1973. *ARION* YOSHIKAZU TASHIKO'S DEBUT WORK PUBLISHED IN *GEKKAN RYU* (MONTHLY RYU) IN 1979. A MANGA WHICH FOLLOWS THE GROWTH OF ITS HERO, ARION. BASED ON THE GREEK MYTHS.

WOW!
WELCOME...
ALL THIS OLD MANGA...
AMAZING! AND IT'S ALL SO TIDY!


OH.
KYO-CHAN, WE READ THIS MANGA TOGETHER AFTER SCHOOL.
DANCING GENERATION.
THESE BRING BACK SO MANY MEMORIES...


YEAH.
I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST...
YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, FUMIE?
OH.

ALL THE SAD AND HAPPY THINGS THAT HAPPENED BACK THEN.
ALL THOSE MEMORIES ARE COMING BACK TO ME ALL AT ONCE
AYAKA, DO YOU WANT TO READ THIS?
YEAH! I WANNA READ IT!
I'M SORRY WE ALL BARGED IN HERE AT ONCE.
CUSTOMERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.
THAT MANGA MAGAZINE
IT'S THIS WEEK'S ISSUE, ISN'T IT?

ITUMI
DANCING GENERATION BY JATOKU MAKIMURA, PUBLISHED BY JISSATU MAGGAJET IN 1981. THE STORY FOLLOWS THE GROWTH OF THE HEROINE AFTER SHE IS DISCOVERED BY A FAMOUS CHOREOGRAPHER AND JOINS AN EXPERIMENTAL DANCE TEAM

EVERY-ONE'S HAVING SO MUCH FUN.
IS THAT SO?
THERE WAS ONE SERIES THAT I JUST HAD TO READ
A LONG TIME AGO...
THE MANAGER OF THIS STORE SAID
"THE HUMAN BODY IS MADE UP OF PROTEINS AND VITAMINS...
"...AND THE HUMAN HEART IS MADE UP OF TIME AND MEMORIES.
"SO TO REMEMBER YOUR PAST...
"...IS TO KNOW THE TRUTH OF YOUR PRESENT."

KNOWING WHAT YOUR HEART IS MADE OF.
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE ALL REMEM-BERING.

TAZAWA...
COME OVER HERE
WHAT A STRANGE STORE
KINGYO USED BOOKS, HUH?

Chapter 2:
Hokusai Manga

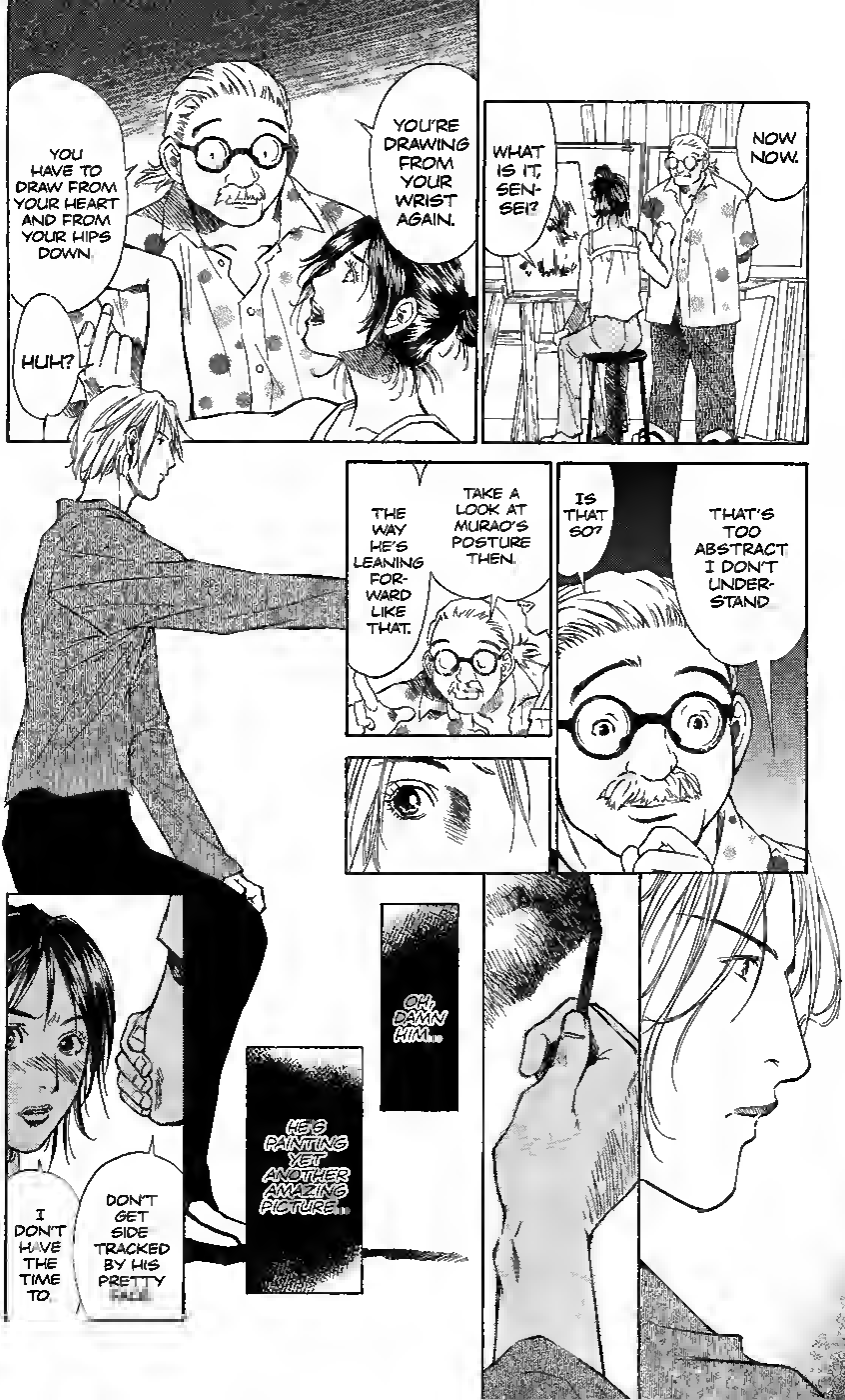
© HINAKO NAGIOKA / JITSUGYO NO NIHON SHA, LTD

I'M NOT GOING TO READ THE REST OF THAT MANGA.
THAT'S OKAY.
HUH?
THAT'S OKAY.
I'LL BRING THE REST TOMORROW.
THERE'S THREE VOLUMES...
HUH...
GOOD FOR YOU, MUDAI!
YOUR BASIC SKETCH WAS CHOSEN TO BE IN THE IMANO SEMINAR AGAIN...
YEAH?
HEY, MUDAI!*
YOU'RE CALLING YOURSELF THAT AGAIN...
WELL, EVEN SOMEONE AS POINTLESSLY HANDSOME AS ME HAS THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT
HMM?
I'VE GOT LOTS OF IDEAS, BUT I JUST CAN'T REALLY GET INTO IT.
MY PRESENTATION, HUH?
LOOKS LIKE YOUR PRESENTATION WILL BE A HIT YET AGAIN.
CONGRATULATIONS, MURAOKUN
ANYWAY, MISAKISA--

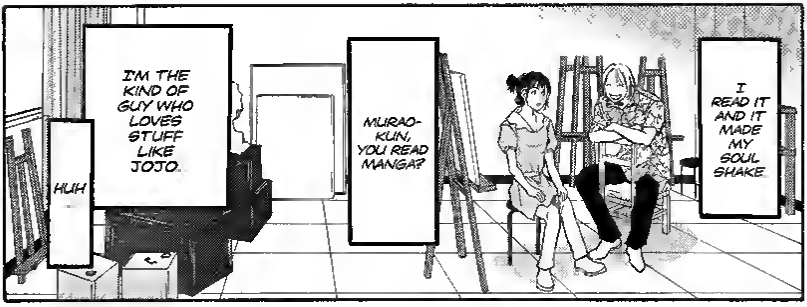
*MUDA NI IKEI = PRETTY FOR NO REASON

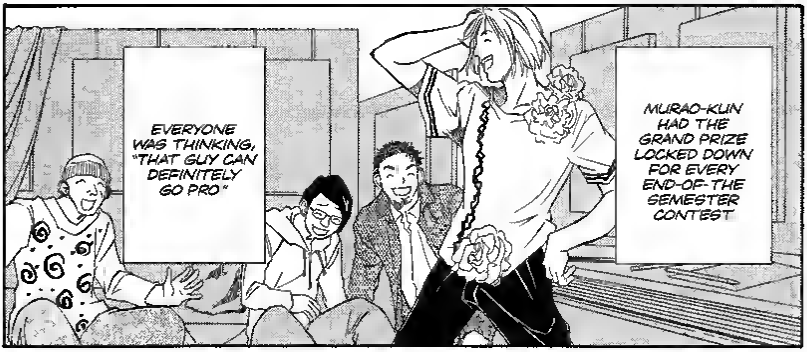
HEY, MISAKI-SAN.
WHY WON'T YOU READ IT?
YOU LIKE KATSUSHIKA HOKUSAI, DON'T YOU? SO YOU SHOULD LIKE THAT MANGA.
GRIP
I DON'T WANT TO READ MANGA ABOUT AN ARTIST.
WHY NOT?
BE-CAUSE ...
GRIP
どんと来い
IT ALL HITS A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO HOME.

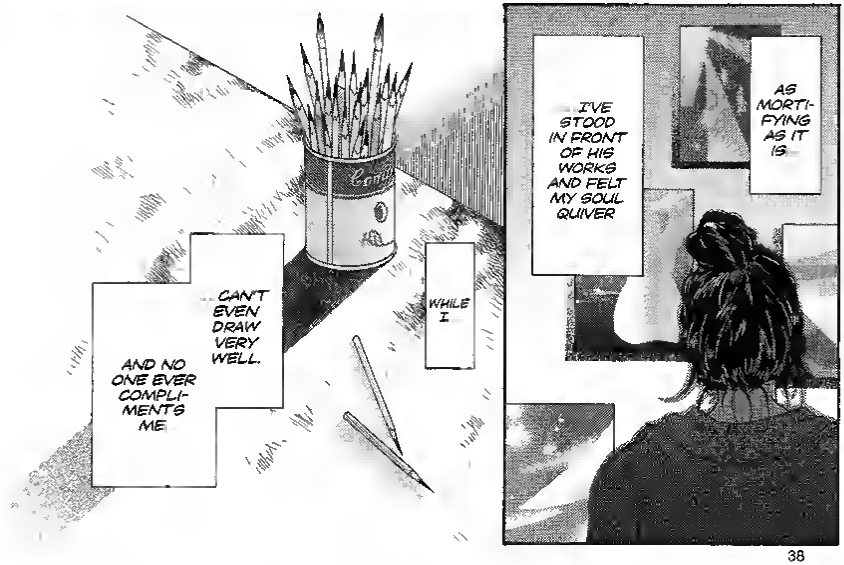
CRASH
CRASH
Hanasaki Art School
THAT'S NO GOOD, MISAKI-CHAN.
WOOH


YOU'RE DRAWING FROM YOUR WRIST AGAIN.
YOU HAVE TO DRAW FROM YOUR HEART AND FROM YOUR HIPS DOWN.
HUH?
NOW NOW.
WHAT IS IT, SENSEI?
TAKE A LOOK AT MURAO'S POSTURE THEN.
THE WAY HE'S LEANING FORWARD LIKE THAT.
IS THAT SO?
THAT'S TOO ABSTRACT I DON'T UNDERSTAND
OH, DAMN HIM...
HE'S PAINTING YET ANOTHER AMAZING PICTURE...
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO.
DON'T GET SIDE TRACKED BY HIS PRETTY FACE

I WAS THINKING ABOUT COPYING KATSUSHIKA HOKUSAI'S "HOKUSAI MANGA."
HOKU SAI?
YOU?
AM I BEING TOO RECK-LESS?
MISAKI
WHAT DID YOU CHOOSE FOR THE REPRO-DUCTION ASSIGN-MENT?
DON'T LET OLD HOKUSAI BRING YOU DOWN
YOU'D BETTER HUSTLE!
TAP
YOU SURE HAVE CHOSEN AN UNLUCKY ARTIST...
HMM. HOKUSAI, IS IT?
HEY, MISAKI-SAN, YOU'RE GOING TO COPY HOKUSAI'S DRAW-INGS?
WELL THEN, I DEFINITELY WANT YOU TO READ THAT MANGA
IT'S THIS MANGA WITH KATSUSHIKA HOKUSAI AS THE MAIN CHARACTER...
IT'S CALLED SARUSUBERI AND IT'S REALLY GOOD.




MURAO-KUN HAD THE GRAND PRIZE LOCKED DOWN FOR EVERY END-OF-THE SEMESTER CONTEST
EVERYONE WAS THINKING, "THAT GUY CAN DEFINITELY GO PRO"


AS MORTI-FYING AS IT IS
I'VE STOOD IN FRONT OF HIS WORKS AND FELT MY SOUL QUIVER
WHILE I
CAN'T EVEN DRAW VERY WELL.
AND NO ONE EVER COMPLI-MENTS ME.

STUDY!

JOJO, JOJO NO KIMYONA *BOUKENGING*, *JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE* BY HIROHIKO ARAKI (1986 – SHONEN JUMP). EACH STORY ARC RECOUNTS BATTLES OF VARIOUS MAIN CHARACTERS ALL NAMED JOJO. CURRENTLY THE SIX ARCS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE AUTHOR'S UNIQUE TOUCH HAS GARNERED MUCH POPULARITY. JOJO NO KIMYONA *BOUKEN* 6.5 VOLUMES AND JOJO NO KIMYONA *BOUKEN: PART 6, STONE OCEAN* 17 VOLUMES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

OH GOSH...
I WISH I HADN'T EVER READ THAT MANGA...
BECAUSE I..
I HAVE NO IDEA.
kssh
HOW CAN I DRAW THE WAY I WANT TO?
I FEEL LIKE I'M SCARED TO DRAW NOW...

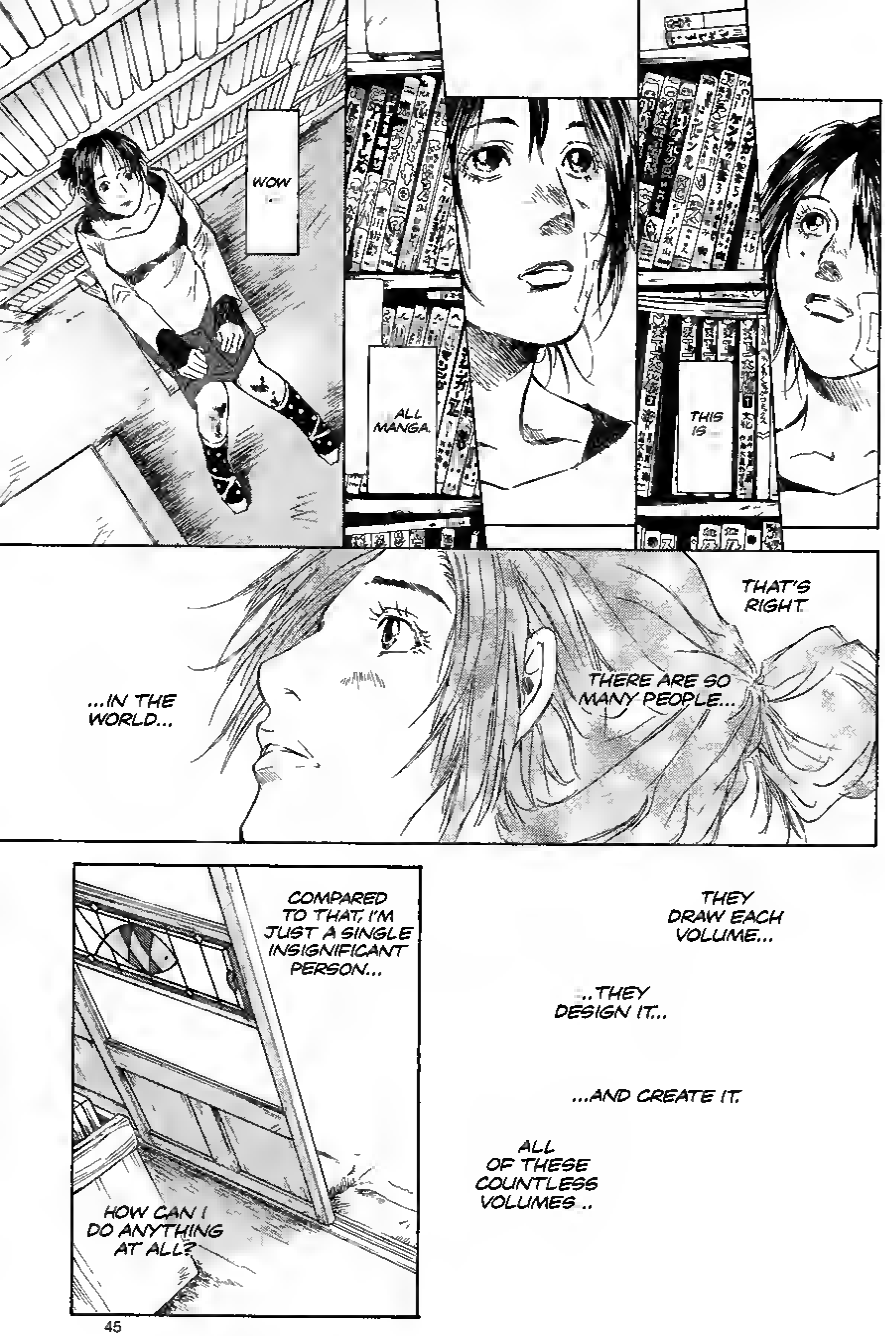
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
AN UGLY GIRL CAN'T DO IT?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DRAW HOKUSAI LOOKING LIKE THAT.
SIGH
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN.
RIGHT.

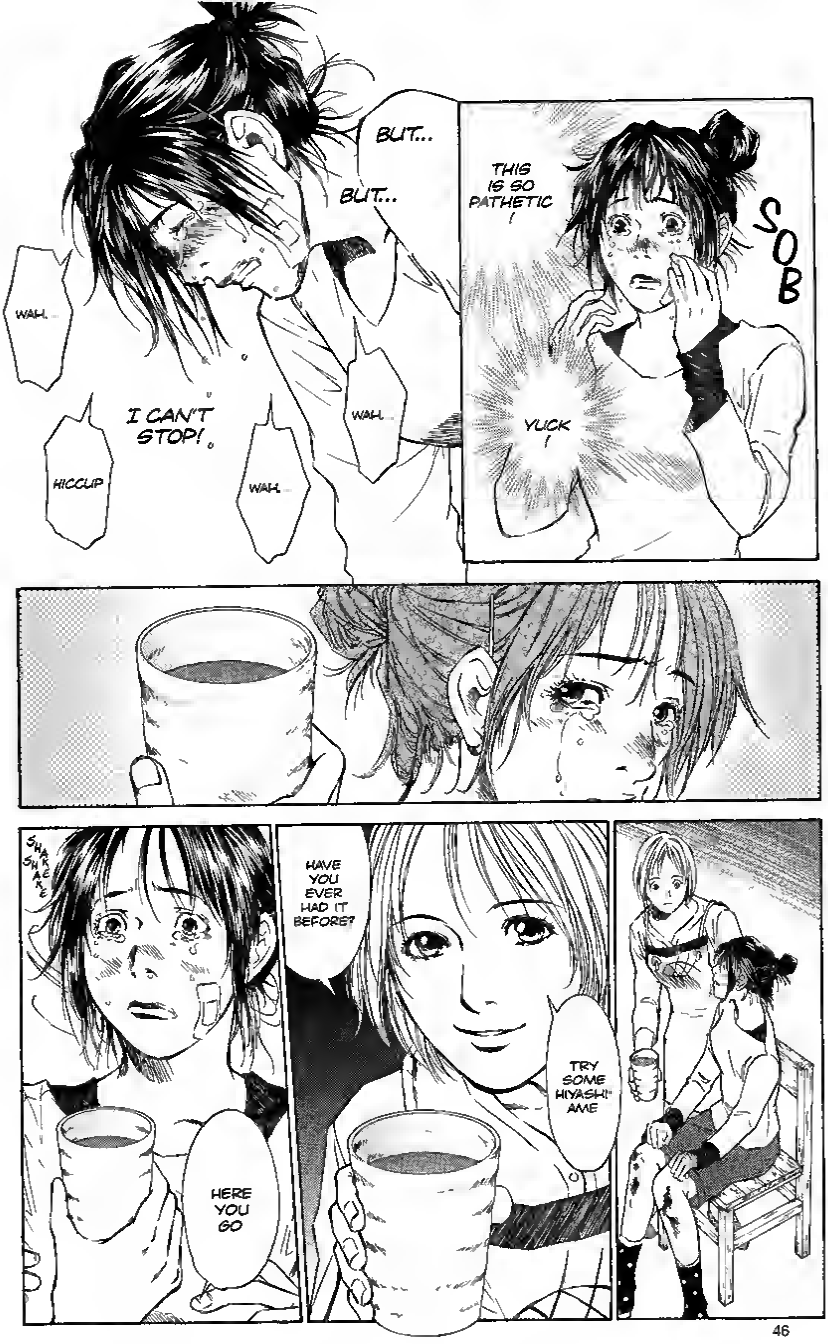
WHAT IS "FUN" AGAIN?
TELL ME, SENSEI
FUN
AHH!
MEOW
BA
BA
BA
DUNK
AHHH!

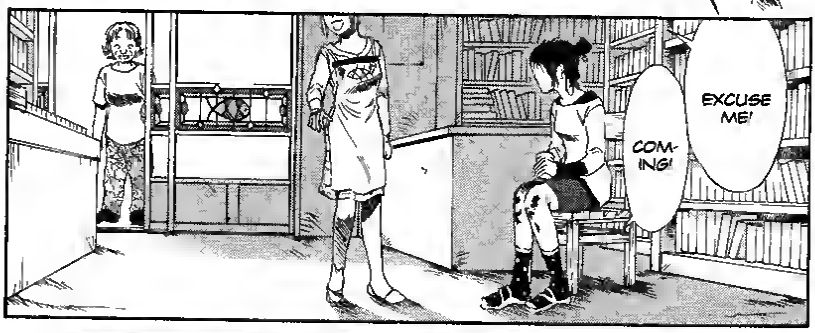
OW.
OW..
MM.
THIS SUCKS
OH MAN
MM.
STING
MY
DRAWING.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HURT
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME AND TAKE CARE OF IT AT MY PLACE?
HUH?
I WORK AT A USED BOOKSTORE NEARBY
LET'S GO PUT SOME ANTI-SEPTIC ON IT
A USED BOOK-STORE?
THIS WAY
LMP
KINGYO USED BOOKS?
Sell your manga

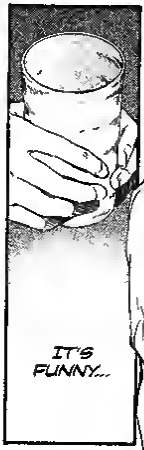
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T BREAK ANYTHING
WE ALL NEED TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT
THANK YOU
NO
DOES IT STING?


WOW
ALL MANGA
THIS IS
THAT'S RIGHT
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE...
...IN THE WORLD...
COMPARED TO THAT, I'M JUST A SINGLE INSIGNIFICANT PERSON...
HOW CAN I DO ANYTHING AT ALL?
THEY DRAW EACH VOLUME...
..THEY DESIGN IT...
...AND CREATE IT.
ALL OF THESE COUNTLESS VOLUMES ..


BUT...
BUT...
WAH
I CAN'T STOP!
HICCUP
WAH
WAH
THIS IS SO PATHETIC
SOB
YUCK
SHAKE SHAKE
HERE YOU GO
HAVE YOU EVER HAD IT BEFORE?
TRY SOME HIYASHI AME

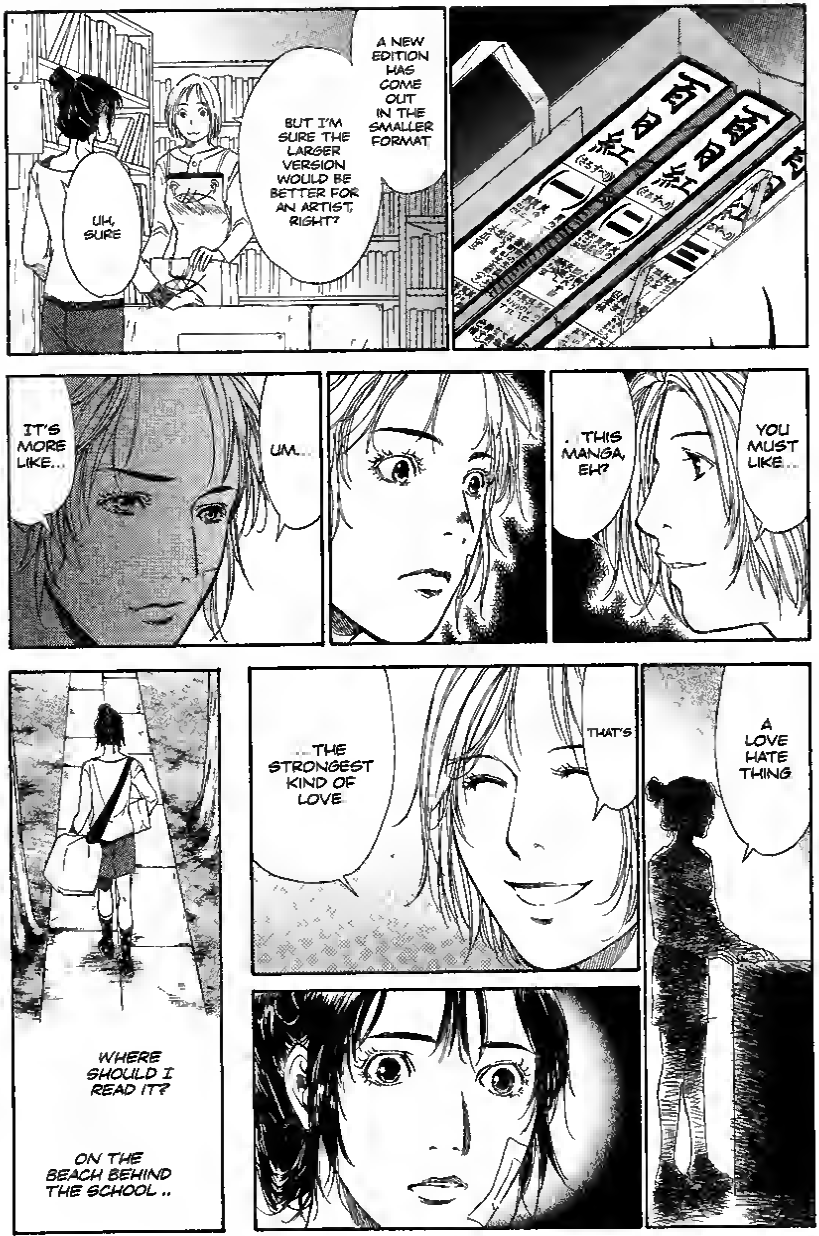


I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER NOW...



I WANT TO CREATE WITH THEM.
I WANT TO BE A PART OF IT
THAT'S ALL I WANT.
BUT THE TRUTH IS...
AMONG ALL THESE PEOPLE
I WAS COMPARING MYSELF TO OTHER PEOPLE IN THAT TINY, TINY SCHOOL...
...AND I WAS ALWAYS SO SCARED.
...TO DRAW.
AH... AFTER ALL... I JUST WANT...

EXCUSE ME
UM...
I'LL BE BACK.
THANK YOU.
THERE'S A MANGA I WANT READ
IT'S CALLED SARUSUBERI, AND IT'S ABOUT KATSUSHIKA HOKUSAI
DO YOU CARRY IT HERE?


A NEW EDITION HAS COME OUT IN THE SMALLER FORMAT
BUT I'M SURE THE LARGER VERSION WOULD BE BETTER FOR AN ARTIST, RIGHT?
UH, SURE
UM...
IT'S MORE LIKE...
. THIS MANGA, EH?
YOU MUST LIKE...
A LOVE HATE THING
THAT'S
...THE STRONGEST KIND OF LOVE
WHERE SHOULD I READ IT?
ON THE BEACH BEHIND THE SCHOOL ..

...I'LL TELL MURAO-KUN...
WHEN I'M FINISHED...
...WHAT I THINK OF IT.
SNAP
SNAP

HEY.
WHAT IS IT, MISAKI-SAN?
MURAO-KUN, WHAT'RE...
WHAT IS IT?
NO WAY...
THIS IS...
...YOUR WORK THAT WON THE GRAND PRIZE...
...AT THE HAMABI FESTIVAL LAST YEAR...
YOUR DRAW-INGS...
...AND YOUR SKETCHES, AND EVERY-THING...
WHY?!

THINKING OF QUITTING SCHOOL.
ACTUALLY I'M...
SOMETHING...
INSIDE ME.
SOMETHING HAS ENDED.
I DON'T KNOW
WHY?!
I TURNED OUT TO BE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO CAN LIVE WITHOUT DRAWING THINGS.
BECAUSE UNLIKE YOU, MISAKI-SAN...
...LIKE HOKUSAI WHO CALLED HIMSELF "THE OLD MAN MAD WITH PAINTING"
BECAUSE I CAN'T GET CRAZY ABOUT ART...

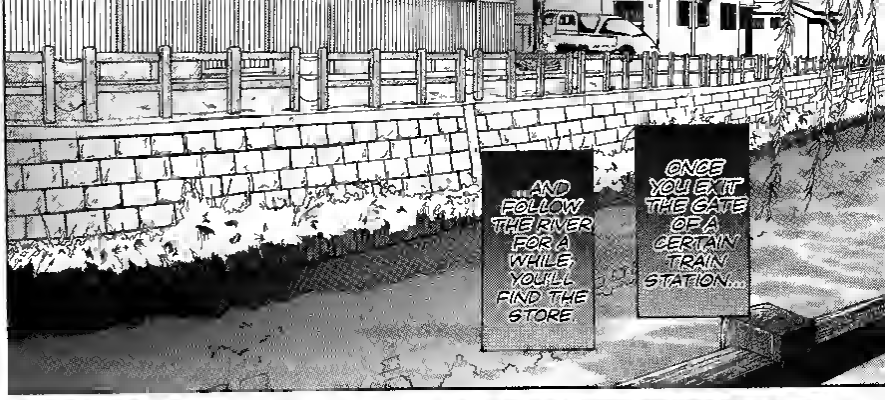
...WANT TO READ THE REST.
AFTER ALL, I...
UH.
SARU-SUBERI.
YOU BOUGHT THE BOOK.
OH.
AH!
TAKE THAT!
SKRITCH
WILL YOU WATCH ME?
MISAKI-SAN.

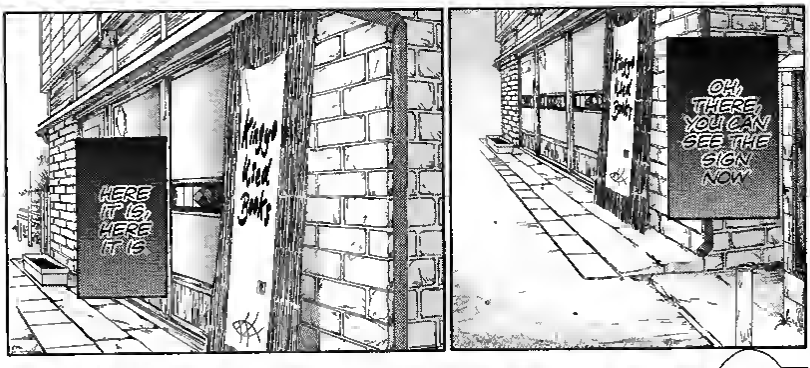
I GOT IT!
I'LL HELP!
OH...
WHAT'RE YOU DRAW-
SKRITCH
SKRIITCH
THIS IS SO MUCH FUN!
WOW...
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

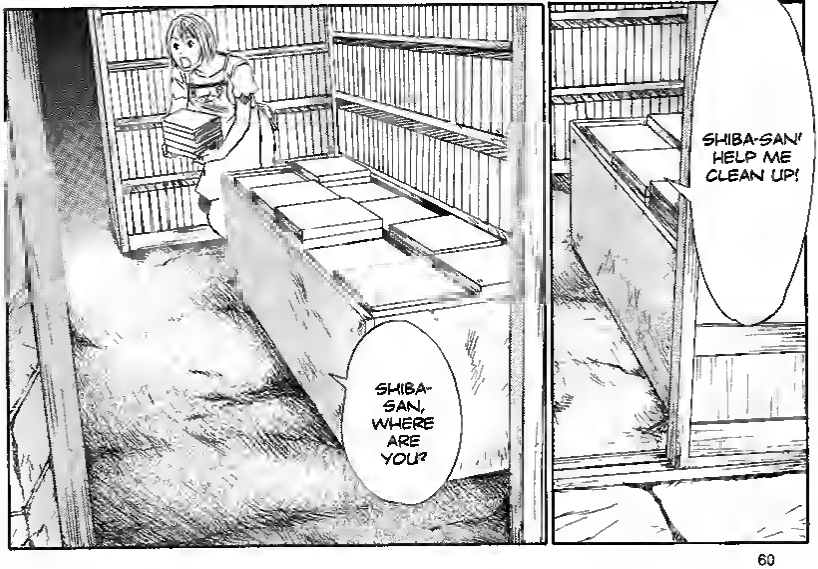
CRASH
CRASH
IT'S SUCH A BUR-DEN
I DON'T LIKE THINGS TO LAST
HUH?
I LIKE IT THIS WAY
WHAT A WASTE
WE JUST FINISHED DRAWING, AND NOW IT'S GOING TO DISAPPEAR...
OOH
DO YOU THINK...
...HOKUSAI EVER GOT DEPRESSED WHEN HE COULDN'T DRAW WELL?
MURAO-KUN
HM?
EVERY ONE IS DIF-FER-ENT
HMM

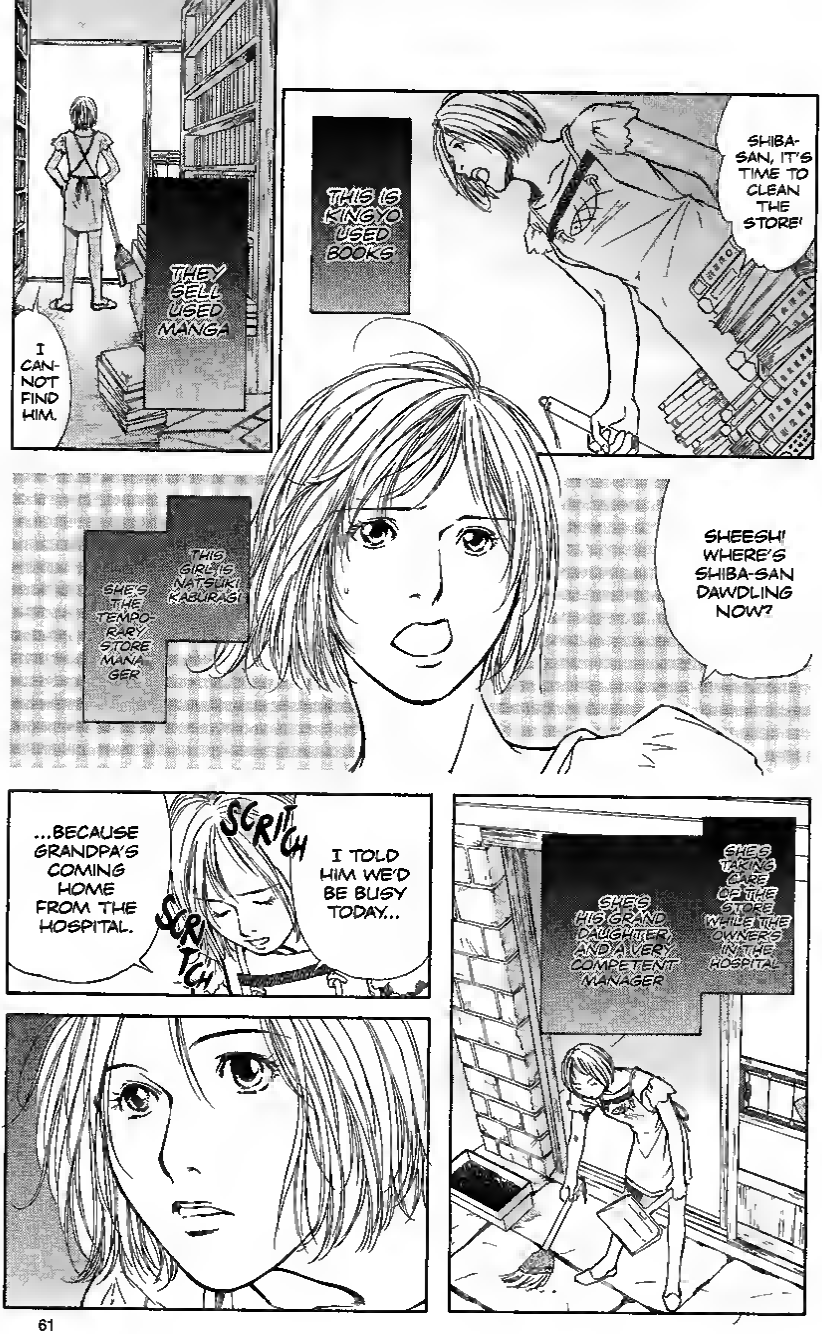
I'VE SEEN PICTURES HOKUSAI DREW WHEN HE WAS OUR AGE. .
YEAH.
THEY REALLY SUCKED.
REALLY ?!
CRASH

Chapter 3:
Far Away


ONCE YOU EXIT THE GATE OF A CERTAIN TRAIN STATION...
...AND FOLLOW THE RIVER FOR A WHILE, YOU'LL FIND THE STORE.

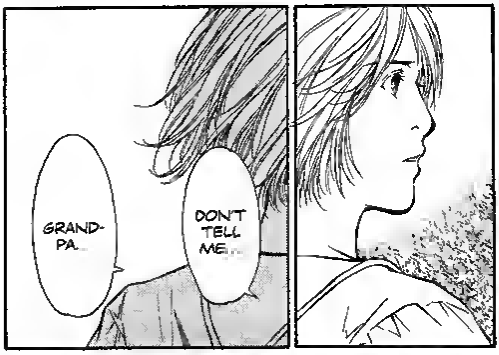

HERE IT IS, HERE IT IS
OH, THERE, YOU CAN SEE THE SIGN NOW

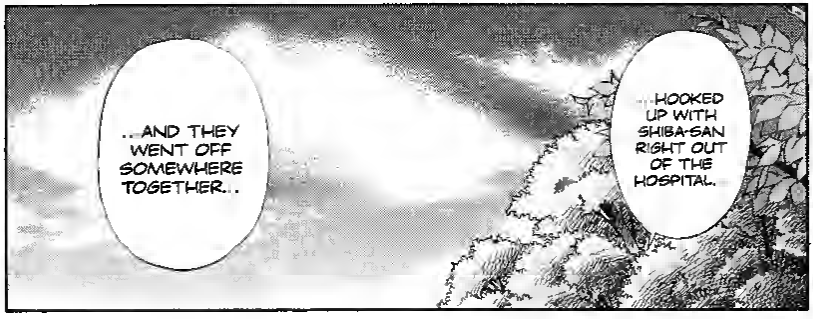

SHIBA-SAN, WHERE ARE YOU?
SHIBA-SAN! HELP ME CLEAN UP!

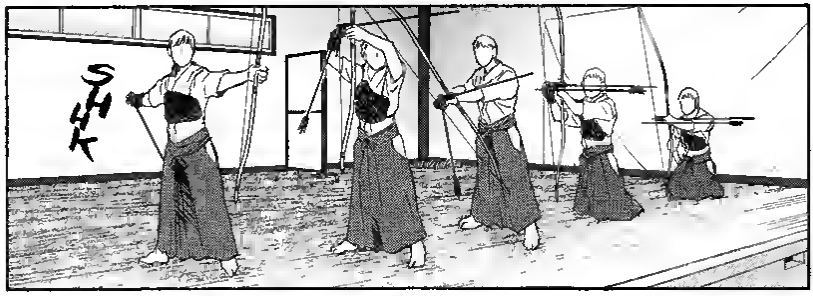

I CAN-NOT FIND HIM.
THEY SELL USED MANGA
THIS IS KINGYO USED BOOKS
SHIBA-SAN, IT'S TIME TO CLEAN THE STORE!
SHEESH! WHERE'S SHIBA-SAN DAWDLING NOW?
THIS GIRL IS NATSUKI KABURAGI
SHE'S THE TEMPO-RARY STORE MANA-GER
SHE'S HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER, AND A VERY COMPETENT MANAGER
SHE'S TAKING CARE OF THE STORE WHILE THE OWNER'S IN THE HOSPITAL
I TOLD HIM WE'D BE BUSY TODAY...
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
...BECAUSE GRANDPA'S COMING HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL.

GRANDPA SAID HE'D CALL WHEN HE WAS READY...

I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE HOSPITAL.
SPEAK-ING OF WHICH ...


GRAND-PA...
DON'T TELL ME...


...AND THEY WENT OFF SOMEWHERE TOGETHER...
...HOOKED UP WITH SHIBA-SAN RIGHT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL.


SHIT

★IN KYUDO (JAPANESE ARCHERY), YOU SHOOT IN SETS OF TWO. THE OTOYA IS THE SECOND ARROW. THE FIRST IS CALLED THE IKIYA.

★THE HAZU IS THE PART WHERE THE STRING IS ATTACHED TO THE BOW. HAZU KOBORE IS WHEN THE ARROW LIFTS FROM THE STRING OF THE BOW AND FALLS TO THE GROUND. THIS WOULD BE A FAILURE IN A COMPETITION
DAMMIT!
HAZU KOBORE!
CLATTER
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
YOU'RE ALWAYS ON A ROLL WHEN WE PRACTICE WITH THE TARGETS.
THIS IS THE WORST.
SO YOU'LL BE FINE IF YOU CAN JUST KEEP IT UP FOR THE TOURNAMENT.

I HAVE TO TRY SO MUCH HARDER.
HEY, YOU'RE WALKING SO FAST, SAWAGUCHI!
I NEED TO WORK HARDER.
YOU'RE WRONG
DASH
HEY, WAIT!
SAWAGUCHI!
OH... BUT...
SO MUCH HARDER
HARDER
...DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.
HE REALLY...
PANT
GASP
COUGH

HOW IN THE WORLD CAN I TRY HARDER THAN I AM NOW?
WHAT ELSE
...CAN I DO?
PANT
PANT
HEE HEE
HEE HEE.
HEE HEE
HEE HEE.
BWA-
-HA HA!

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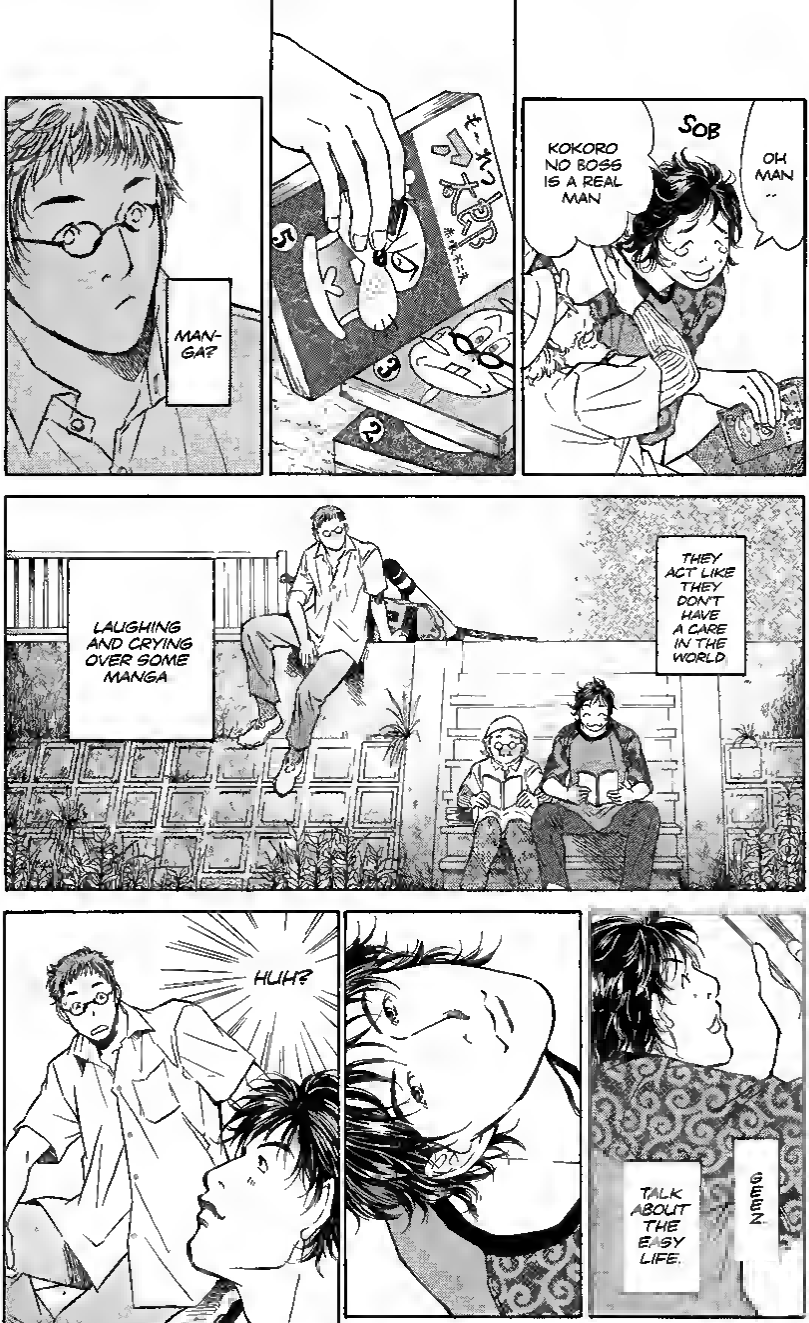

MAN-GA?
KOKORO NO BOSS IS A REAL MAN
SOB
OH MAN...
LAUGHING AND CRYING OVER SOME MANGA
THEY ACT LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD.
HUH?
GEEZ.
TALK ABOUT THE EASY LIFE.

IT'S REALLY FUNNY.
NO, I DON'T REALLY.
HUH?
MOR-ETSU ATARO.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ THIS?
HERE YOU GO.
W-WHAT IS IT?
GRAB
OOPH?
I'M JUST NOT REALLY IN THE MOOD TO READ MANGA RIGHT NOW
POP
SKRRCH
UPSET
I SAID I DON'T WANT TO!
HUH?
SHHK

GASP
BAM
TUG
WHY DO YOU WANT.
ME TO READ IT THAT MUCH?
BECAUSE THIS MANGA IS REALLY FUNNY.
THEY'RE TYRANTS
NAH WE WERE JUST JOKING THERE...
Really?
BECAUSE YOU WERE SITTING THERE LOOKING SO WORRIED...
I JUST COULDN'T LEAVE YOU THERE...
I HAD TO TALK TO YOU

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
BUT IF THERE'S SOMETHING WORRYING YOU, WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING ABOUT IT?
NOW, I'M JUST A PASSERBY
DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN START READING FROM THE MIDDLE.
HERE!
THUNK
WHO'S THAT?
SO? WAS I LIKE DR. CHIDORI FROM OPEN MIND?
...
I NEVER SAID I REA...
HEY! WAIT!
WHAT THE HECK...

STUDY

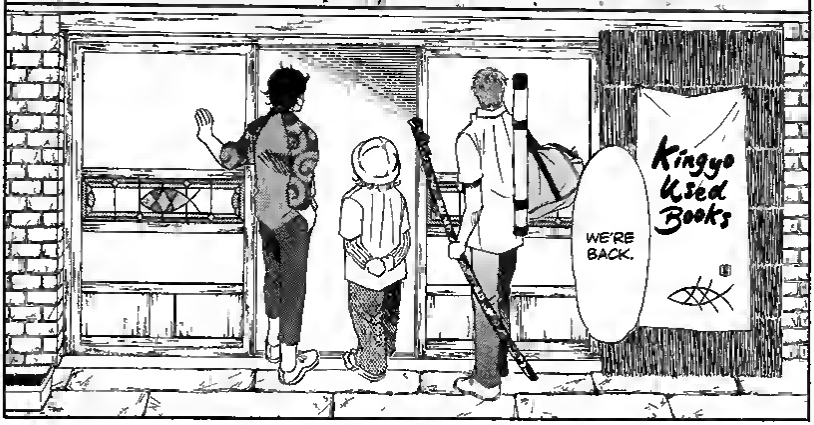
OPEN MIND, BY YUMU YOSHIZAKI, BEGAN RUNNING IN 2003. IN *HUKAN MORNING*, TELLS THE STORY OF A MENTAL CLINIC DR. CHIDORI IS GOOD AT GETTING PATIENTS AND PEOPLE HE'S NEVER MET BEFORE TO TELL HIM THEIR TROUBLES.

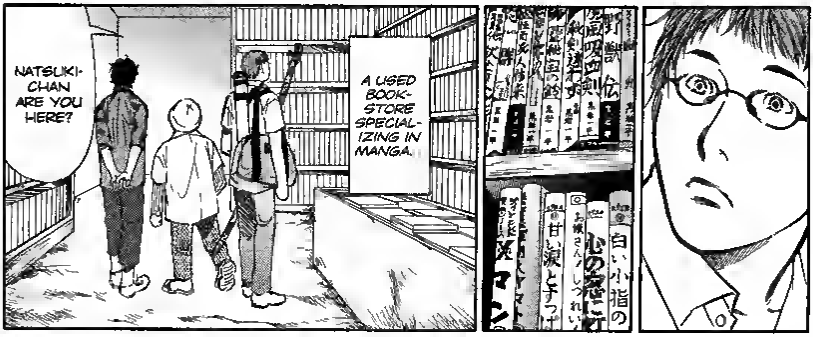
HUH?
GE-
GEEZ...

BWA...
WHA-
WHAT IS THIS?
WHY IS THERE A RACCOON WEARING A SUIT AND GOING FISHING?
HEE HEE HEE
HEE HEE HEE
HEE HEE HEE HEE

BWA-HA HA HA!
THE FROG TURNED INTO A SEA ANEMONE UNDER-WATER!
THE CAT ATE A CATERPILLAR AND NOW THERE'S HAIR GROWING ALL OVER IT'S BODY, NYAROME!
WHAT'S WITH THIS?!
AHA HA HA HA.
YOU'RE IN THE KYUDO CLUB?
SO YOU'RE A SPORTSMAN? HOW COOL...
OH NO... I WANT TO GO TRAIN RIGHT NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA READ NEXT?
RIGHT? YOU WANT TO READ MORE, RIGHT?
Returned to his senses.
THE HARDER I TRY TO HIT THE TARGET, THE MORE I MISS.
I JUST FALL APART DURING THE ACTUAL MATCH.
I CAN'T USE ALL MY POWER!
YOU GET YOUR POWER FROM SOME SECRET TRAINING?
IT'S NOT THAT COOL.

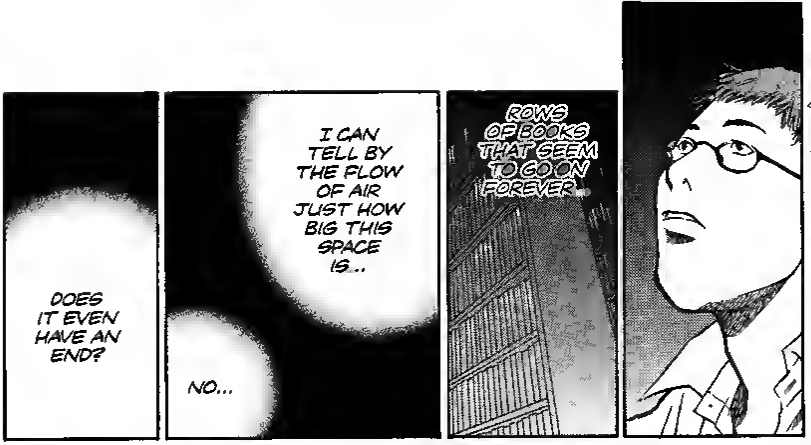
I SHOULDN'T BE WASTING TIME HERE, I SHOULD BE PRACTICING.
BUT I DON'T HAVE USE OF THE DOJO TODAY...
HMM...
mumble
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU PRACTICE AT MY PLACE?
HUH? YOUR PLACE?
COME ON, COME ON.
IT'LL NEVER WORK AN ARCHERY DOJO HAS 92 FEET BETWEEN THE TARGET AND THE PLACE YOU SHOOT FROM.
A NORMAL HOUSE DOESN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF SPACE.
YOU WANT TO PRACTICE, DON'T YOU?
WHAT A WEIRD OLD MAN...

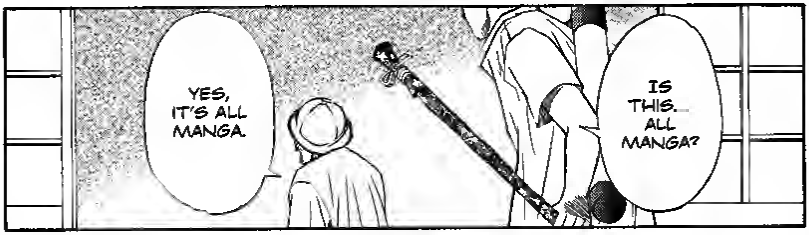

Kingyo Used Books
WE'RE BACK.


NATSUKI-CHAN ARE YOU HERE?
A USED BOOK-STORE SPECIAL-IZING IN MANGA.

THIS WAY
IT'S DARK, SO WATCH YOUR STEP
WHOA
SHU
MANGA, MANGA.
OF MANGA.
IT'S A MOUN-TAIN.
WHERE COULD THERE BE SPACE TO PRACTICE IN THIS CRAMPED STORE?

THUNK
THUNK
THUNK



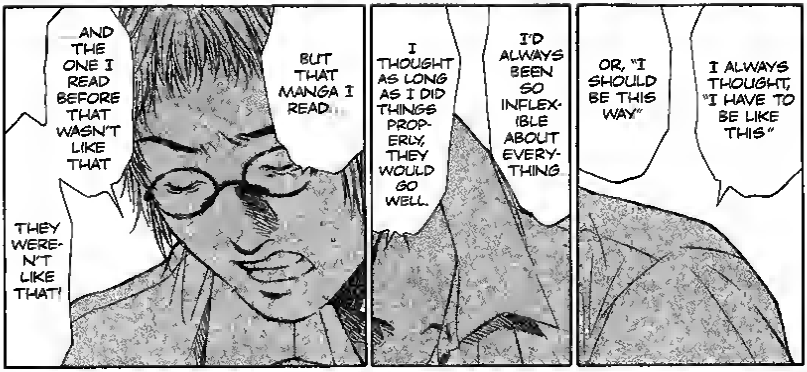


I'LL MAKE SOME TEA, SO YOU CAN READ WHATEVER MANGA YOU LIKE
"MANGA" AGAIN?
WELL, THAT MANGA EARLIER...
...CERTAINLY WAS INTERESTING...
WHAT'S THIS?
DENSENRUN DESU?

DENSENRUN DESU. SHOULD BE READ AS "IT'S ALWAYS DESU OUT. IT'S CONTAGIOUS. BY YISHIMA YOSHIHA. PUBLISHED IN 1999 BY BIG COMIC SPIRITS. A NONSENSICAL GAG MANGA FULL OF PECULIAR CHARACTERS SUCH AS THE JEALOUS EAWASHO KUN AND THE VICIOUS SHIITAKE MUSHROOM AND SHITO SHITA (BEETLE) WHO'S TRYING TO FIND A JOB. GREAT CARE WAS TAKEN IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FUNKORION. THE JACKETS WERE DESIGNED BY KOKUB WHO ALSO OVERSEES THE COVER DESIGNS OF BIZ (THE MAGAZINE IN WHICH KINGYO USED BOOKS IS PUBLISHED). CURRENTLY ALL FIVE VOLUMES ARE AVAILABLE.

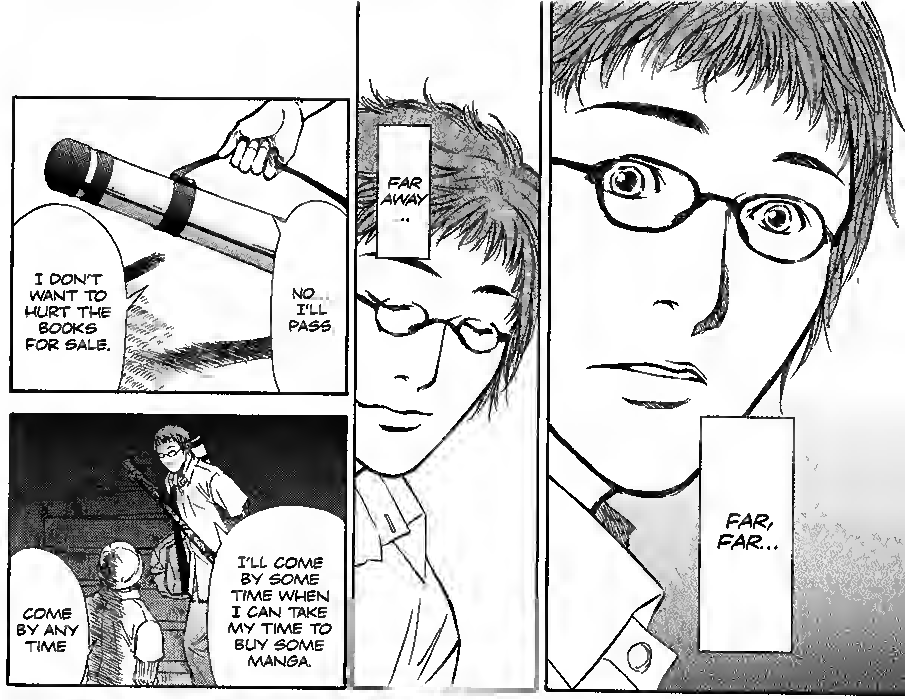
HEE HEE HEE.
AHA HA HA.
HEE HEE
BWA-HA HA.
...
HA HA.
...
...WHEN I READ THIS MANGA...
SOME-HOW
WHAT IS IT?
OOH.
OOH.

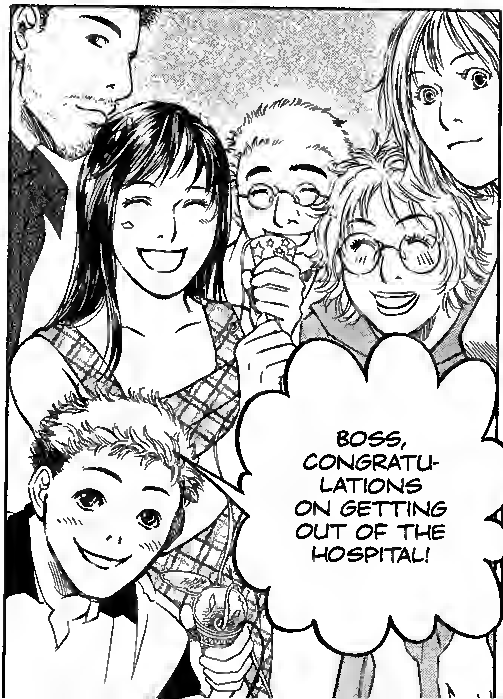
...IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE I COULD DO ANYTHING.

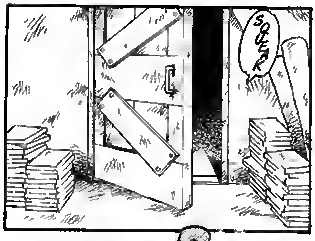

...AND THE ONE I READ BEFORE THAT WASN'T LIKE THAT
BUT THAT MANGA I READ...
THEY WERE-N'T LIKE THAT!
I THOUGHT AS LONG AS I DID THINGS PROP-ERLY, THEY WOULD GO WELL.
I'D ALWAYS BEEN SO INFLEX-IBLE ABOUT EVERY-THING
OR, "I SHOULD BE THIS WAY"
I ALWAYS THOUGHT, "I HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS"

IT'S NOT PULLING THE BOW TIGHT THAT MAKES THOSE ARROWS FLY FAR...
...THAT TO MAKE YOUR ARROWS FLY FURTHER...
I READ IN A MANGA ONCE...
SON.

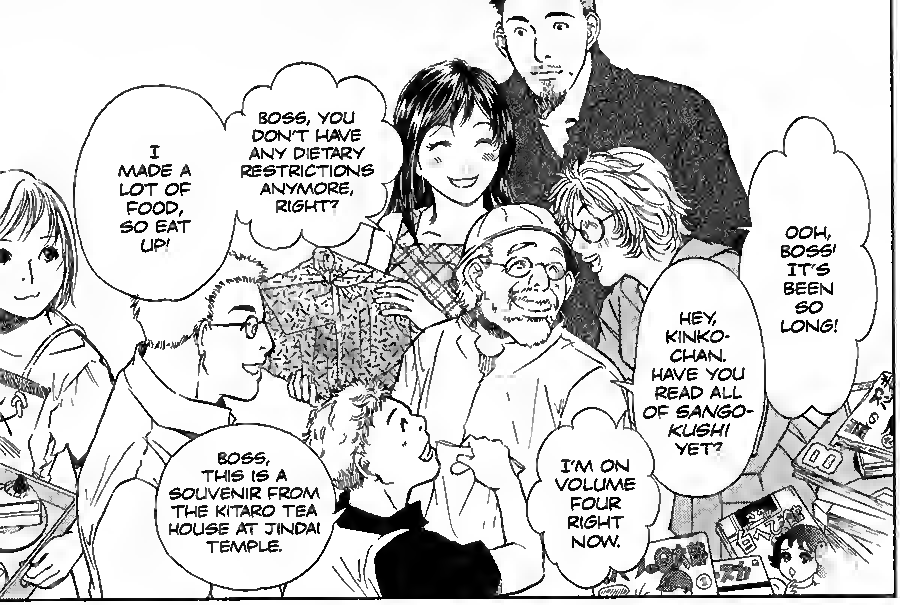
IS THAT SO?
IF YOU LET GO THEN, THE ARROW WILL FLY AS FAR AS IT CAN
RIGHT BEFORE YOU LET IT FLY, LET UP ON THE BOWSTRING A LITTLE...
JUST HOW FAR CAN YOU MAKE THE ARROW FLY?
WON'T YOU TRY PRACTICING HERE?
YES.


FAR AWAY...
FAR, FAR...
I DON'T WANT TO HURT THE BOOKS FOR SALE.
NO... I'LL PASS
I'LL COME BY SOME TIME WHEN I CAN TAKE MY TIME TO BUY SOME MANGA.
COME BY ANY TIME


BOSS, CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING OUT OF THE HOSPITAL!


SQUEAK

ACK!
AH!
POPPOP

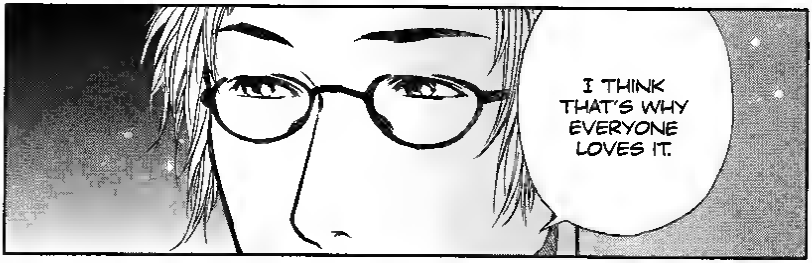

I MADE A LOT OF FOOD, SO EAT UP!
BOSS, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS ANYMORE, RIGHT?
OOH, BOSS! IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
HEY, KINKO-CHAN. HAVE YOU READ ALL OF SANGO-KUSHI YET?
BOSS, THIS IS A SOUVENIR FROM THE KITARO TEA HOUSE AT JINDAI TEMPLE.
I'M ON VOLUME FOUR RIGHT NOW.

BOSS?
YOU MEAN, HE'S...
THIS USED MANGA STORE IS LEGEND-ARY.
KINGYO USED BOOKS.
THEY SAY THAT YOU CAN FIND ALMOST ANYTHING YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HERE.
THAT'S WHY.

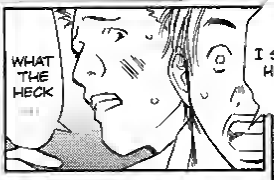
STUDY

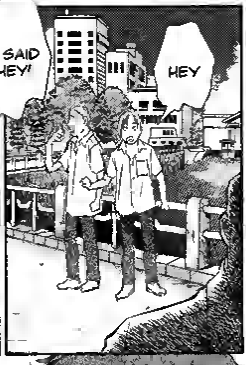
SANGOKUSHI BY MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA, PUBLISHED IN 1971 IN *BIG ONO TOMO* (*BIG FRIEND*). THE SERIES RECOUNTS CHINESE HISTORY AND CONTINUED RUNNING THROUGH SEVERAL DIFFERENT MAGAZINES FOR 15 YEARS. CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM KIBO COMICS (60 VOLUMES) ARE *UMAO KUNIO* (10 VOLUMES).

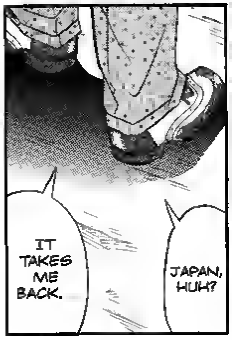
...SO MANY MANGA LOVERS LOVE THIS STORE FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS.
I DON'T THINK
...THAT'S THE ONLY REASON.
HUH?
MANGA ISN'T THE ONLY THING...
...THEY FIND AT THIS STORE.
I THINK...


I THINK THAT'S WHY EVERYONE LOVES IT.

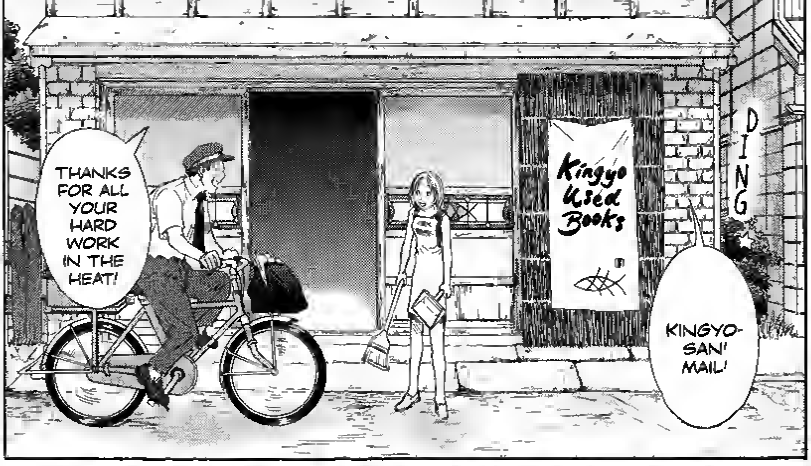
Chapter 4: The Boy Detective Arrives

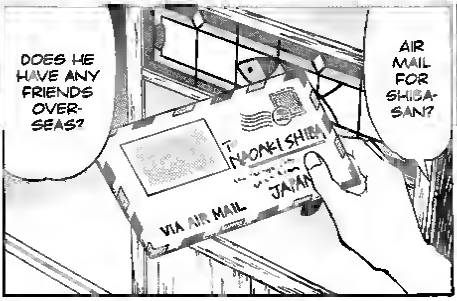


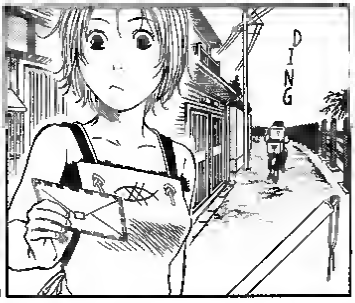


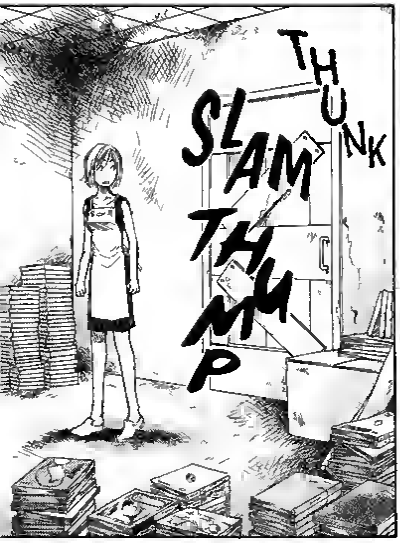


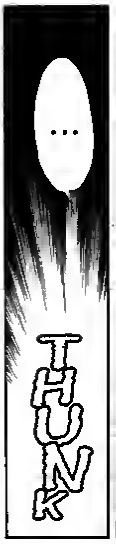
Chapter 4: The Boy Detective Arrives


THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK IN THE HEAT!
Kingyo Used Books
DING
KINGYO-SAN! MAIL!

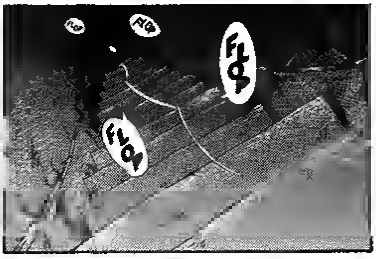

DOES HE HAVE ANY FRIENDS OVER-SEAS?
AIR MAIL FOR SHIBA-SAN?
MASAKI SHIBA
JAPAN
VIA AIR MAIL


DING


THUNK
SLAM
THUMP


...
THUNK

FLOP
SHIBA-SAN! YOU'VE GOT MAIL!


FLOP
FLOP
FLOP

BI...
IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT THAT LETTER...
WHAT'S THE RUSH, SHIBA-SAN?
WHAM
HUH?
BILLY'S COMING!
THUMP
OH, HEY!
I HAVE TO TELL THE BOSS!
BILLY'S COMING
NATSUKI SAN
WHO'S THAT?
BILLY

★SEDORI: SOMEONE WHO BUYS GOOD FINDS CHEAPLY FROM USED BOOKSTORES AND SELLS THEM AT A HIGH PRICE TO OTHER USED BOOKSTORES.

HUH ...
APPARENTLY HE'S BACK IN JAPAN FOR A WHILE
HMM.
HE'S BEEN IN THE US SINCE HE WAS BORN BECAUSE OF HIS FATHER'S JOB.
HIS REAL NAME IS ICHIRO KABURAGI.
NATSUKI-SAN, DOES HE LOVE MANGA AS MUCH AS THE REST OF THE FAMILY?
UHH.
?
YOU SEE, ICHIRO-KUN, WELL.
WHEN IT COMES TO MANGA ...
YOU COULD SAY HE'S REALLY KNOWLEDGE-ABLE.
YOU COULD ALSO SAY HE KNOWS NOTHING.
WELL, WHICH IS IT?
SIGH
THE ONE THING THAT'S CERTAIN IS THAT HE'S EVEN WEIRDER THAN SHIBA-SAN
GOCHISO-SAMA

WHAAAT ?!
IS THAT POSSIBLE ?!
IT IS A BIG WORLD...
WANT SOME BARLEY TEA?
SURE
THAN SHIBA-SAN
WEIRDER
AHH!
HMM.
THAN SHIBA SAN BE LIKE?
WHAT WOULD SOMEONE WEIRDER.
IT SURE IS HOT
PHEW
SZZLE
SZZLE
SZZLE
SZZLE

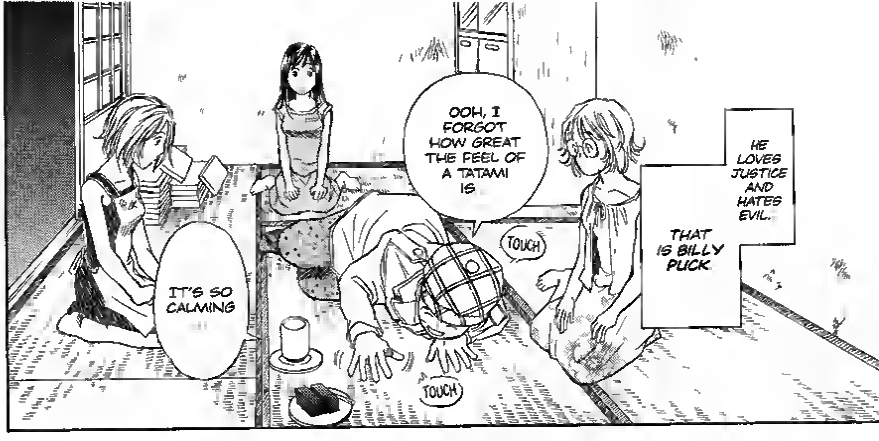
NOOO!
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
GRRR
WHERE IS
...HIS OWNER ?!
AHH!
GRMP
SOME-
BODY?!
SOME
BA
M

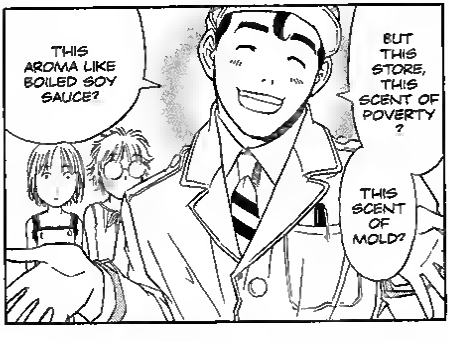
Pat Pat
THERE, THERE
THERE
WOOF!
WOOF!
GRRR!
GRRR!
AHH!
WHAM
CLACK
GRRR...
I SEE
THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS WERE BULLYING YOU.
WHAT IS IT? HMM..
fwap
fwap
fwap
WHUMP
THERE
GOOD BOY
ARE-
ARE YOU HIS OWNER?
NO, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S A LOST DOG.
THERE'S AN ADDRESS ON THE TAG AROUND HIS NECK. LET'S TAKE HIM HOME

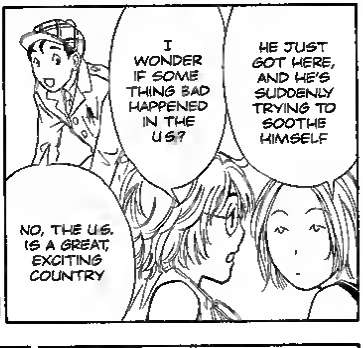
TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH.
FOR SAVING ME.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MY NAME?
FSSH
HERE YOUR GLASSES.
YOU DROPPED THEM.
...
BILLY
...
CALL ME BILLY.

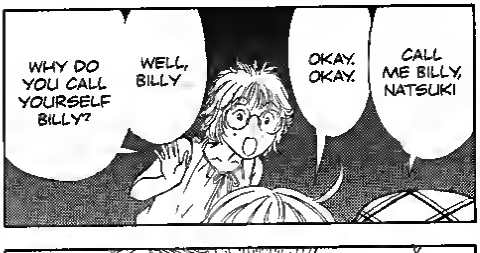
BILLY PUCK.
A POPULAR MANGA ABOUT A BOY DETECTIVE, IT WAS PUBLISHED IN SHONEN GAHO IN 1955.
THE AUTHOR IS MITSUHIRO KAWASHIMA.
BILLY WAS BORN TO AN AMERICAN FATHER AND A JAPANESE MOTHER...
...AND TRAVELS ALONE TO THE US AFTER MANY HARDSHIPS...
HE BECOMES A FAMOUS BOY DETECTIVE IN THE US BEFORE RETURNING TO JAPAN.
BILLY STANDS AGAINST MANY VILLAINS, AND HIS SPECIAL SKILLS ARE...
..DISGUISE AND...
MARKSMANSHIP
HIS TRADEMARKS ARE A CHECKERED CAP...
...HIS SADDLE SHOES...
..HIS TRENCH COAT AND THE FOUNTAIN PEN STUCK IN THE POCKET

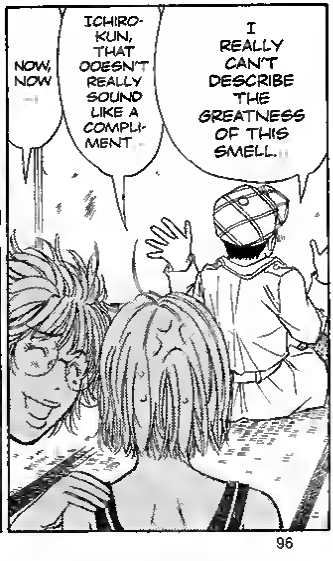
© THIRD HOUSE

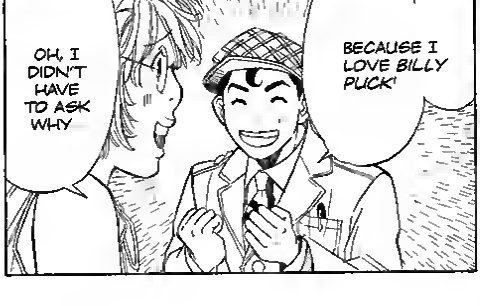

IT'S SO CALMING
OOH, I FORGOT HOW GREAT THE FEEL OF A TATAMI IS
TOUCH
TOUCH
HE LOVES JUSTICE AND HATES EVIL.
THAT IS BILLY PUCK


THIS AROMA LIKE BOILED SOY SAUCE?
BUT THIS STORE, THIS SCENT OF POVERTY ?
THIS SCENT OF MOLD?


I WONDER IF SOME THING BAD HAPPENED IN THE U.S?
HE JUST GOT HERE, AND HE'S SUDDENLY TRYING TO SOOTHE HIMSELF
NO, THE U.S. IS A GREAT, EXCITING COUNTRY

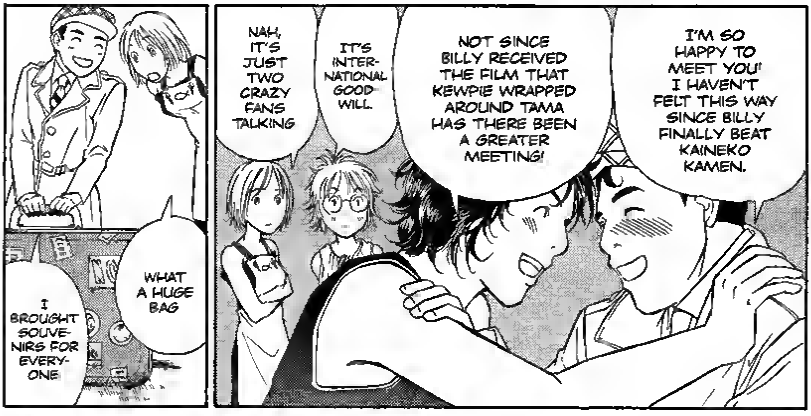

WHY DO YOU CALL YOURSELF BILLY?
WELL, BILLY
OKAY. OKAY.
CALL ME BILLY, NATSUKI


NOW, NOW
ICHIRO-KUN, THAT DOESN'T REALLY SOUND LIKE A COMPLI-MENT
I REALLY CAN'T DESCRIBE THE GREATNESS OF THIS SMELL.

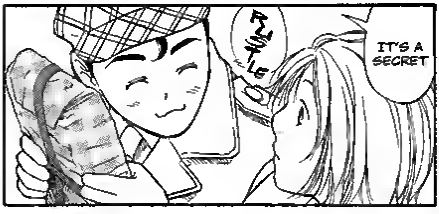

OH, I DIDN'T HAVE TO ASK WHY
BECAUSE I LOVE BILLY PUCK!

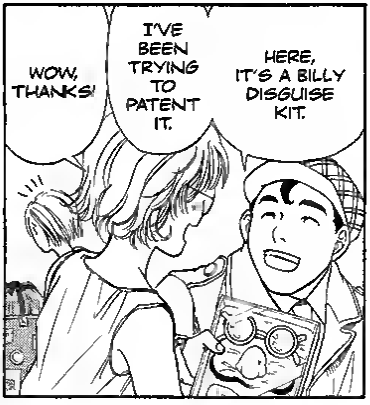
HAHA. OH, ICHIRO, YOU'RE SO SHY.
The U.S.
ICHIRO
ICHIRO
HAVE YOU MADE NEW FRIENDS?
NO.
あっ!!
HE WAS STRONG
BILLY...
BILLY DOES GREAT WORK IN BOTH THE US AND JAPAN
DAD BROUGHT YOU THIS BACK FROM JAPAN
AND I SWORE IN MY HEART TO LIVE LIKE BILLY
I READ IT OVER AND OVER, MEMORIZED IT FROM COVER TO COVER
KILLED
362
AND KIND

SHIBA!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
BILLY!
SHIBA?
I KNEW IT RIGHT AWAY.
BILLY, RIGHT?
WELL, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS.
画
BILLY!


I BROUGHT SOUVENIRS FOR EVERYONE
WHAT A HUGE BAG
NAH, IT'S JUST TWO CRAZY FANS TALKING
IT'S INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL.
NOT SINCE BILLY RECEIVED THE FILM THAT KEWPIE WRAPPED AROUND TAMA HAS THERE BEEN A GREATER MEETING!
I'M SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU! I HAVEN'T FELT THIS WAY SINCE BILLY FINALLY BEAT KAINEKO KAMEN.

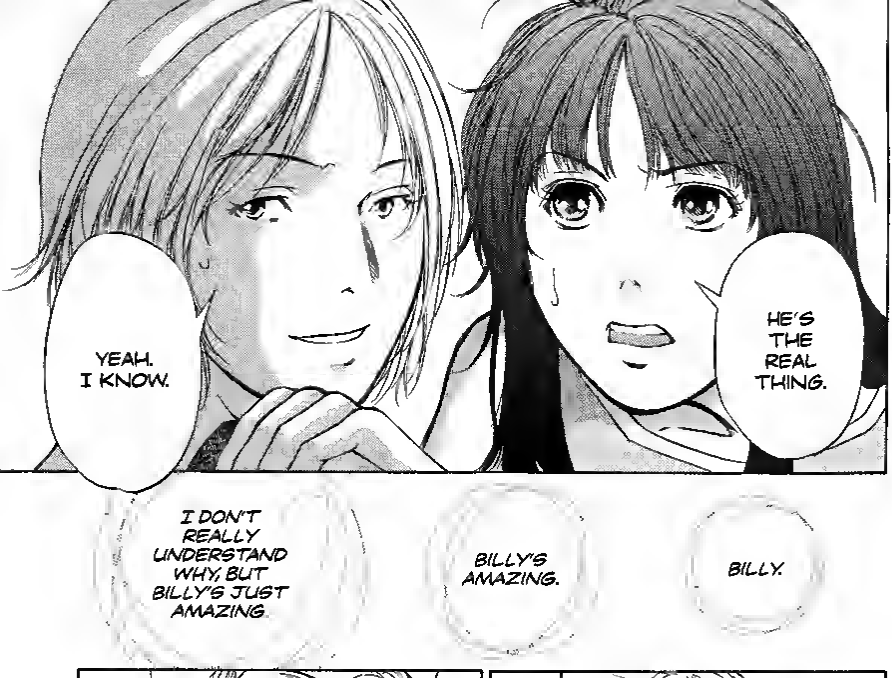
BILLY, WHAT'S IN THIS PACKAGE?


IT'S A SECRET


WOW, THANKS!
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PATENT IT.
HERE, IT'S A BILLY DISGUISE KIT.

BILLY-SAN KNOWS MORE ABOUT BILLY THAN SHIBA-SAN DOES?!
THAT'S AMAZ-ING!
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW SHIBA-SAN TRUMPED ON THE SUBJECT OF MANGA.
ICHIRO-KUN CALLED THE STORE ONE NEW YEAR'S, AND HE AND SHIBA-SAN SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT TALKING ABOUT BILLY.
SO TELL ME... HOW DID THEY BECOME PEN PALS?
REAL-LY?
LATELY I'VE BECOME VERY WELL VERSED IN JAPANESE MANGA CULTURE
OH! HOW RUDE!
BUT ICHIRO-KUN DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANY MANGA OTHER THAN BILLY
...
...
...THE INIMITABLE DORAIXIMON.
WAIT, HE MEANS ...
GASP
RECENTLY IN JAPAN,
...THIS MANGA ABOUT A BLUE RACCOON IS REALLY POPULAR, RIGHT?
Same pose as the back cover of Billy Puck

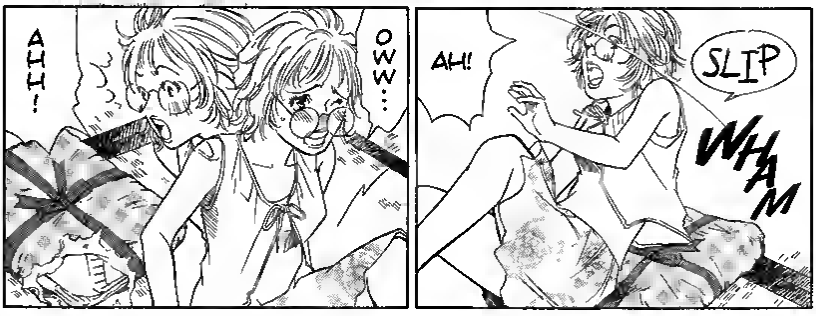
BY THE WAY...
WHERE'S GRANDPA?
GRAND-PA?
THE BOSS?
WELL, YOU SEE...
HE'S BEEN SNEAKING AROUND RECENTLY, AND I DON'T SEE HIM MUCH
HE SEEMS TO BE PLOTTING SOMETHING.
WELL THEN, SHALL I FIND OUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER, NATSUKI?
LEAVE IT TO A PROFES-SIONAL.
A PROFES-SIONAL?
I'M A DETECTIVE.
I FINALLY GOT A LICENSE IN THE U.S. TO BE A REAL DETECTIVE
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
I'M GOING TO LIVE LIKE BILLY
SWAY
N-NATSUKI-SAN
NO, AYU-SAN, THAT'S OKAY
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY
NO, LET ME SAY IT
THAT'S REALLY OKAY
NATSUKI-SAN

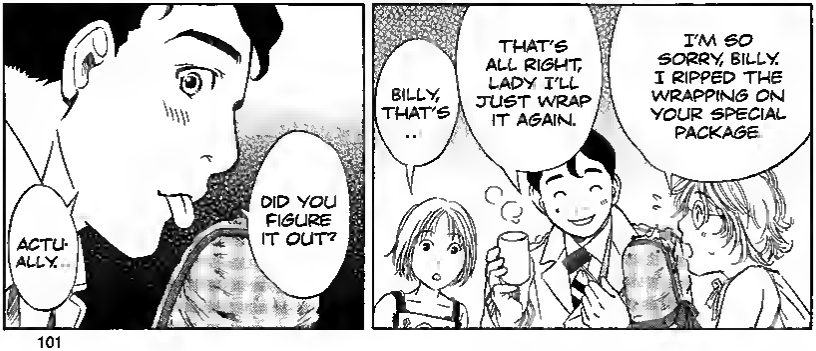


I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHY, BUT BILLY'S JUST AMAZING.

BILLY'S AMAZING.

BILLY.




ACTU-ALLY...
DID YOU FIGURE IT OUT?
BILLY, THAT'S...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, LADY I'LL JUST WRAP IT AGAIN.
I'M SO SORRY, BILLY. I RIPPED THE WRAPPING ON YOUR SPECIAL PACKAGE.

MY MAIN GOAL IN COMING TO JAPAN THIS TIME...
...IS TO MEET MITSUHIRO KAWASHIMA.
MEET KAWA-SHIMA SENSEI?
THE AUTHOR— THE FATHER OF BILLY PUCK
I DECIDED THAT I WOULD LIKE TO MEET KAWASHIMA SENSEI WHEN I BECOME A DETECTIVE.
HE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ME, AND I WANT TO TELL HIM HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE HIS TALENT.
UM, YOU KNOW, ICHIRO-KUN
I KNOW HIS ADDRESS XXX GOSHOMACHI, SHOWA-KU, NAGOYA CITY.
I HOPE I DON'T GET LOST I WROTE HIM A FAN LETTER TOO
KAWA-SHIMA SENSEI IS 73 THIS YEAR, RIGHT?
HE MUST GET CHILLED ON COLD DAYS, SO I MADE HIM A MATCHING BILLY SWEATER.
HAND KNIT
BILLY, LISTEN TO ME!

KAWASHIMA SENSEI HAS ALREADY PASSED AWAY.
HUH?
HE'S NOT OF THIS WORLD ANYMORE.
THAT CAN'T BE...
WHEN? RECENTLY?
MARCH 1961, WHEN HE WAS 30 YEARS OLD.
FROM A HEART CONDITION HE'D HAD SINCE BEFORE *BILLY'S* SERIALIZATION
Nagoya. 1954
NICE TO MEET YOU, CHIEF EDITOR YAMABE.

I'M KAWASHIMA.
CRCK
HE CONTINUED TO DRAW MOST OF THE PAGES FROM HIS BED
AND HE PASSED AWAY SEVEN YEARS LATER
...
NO WAY..

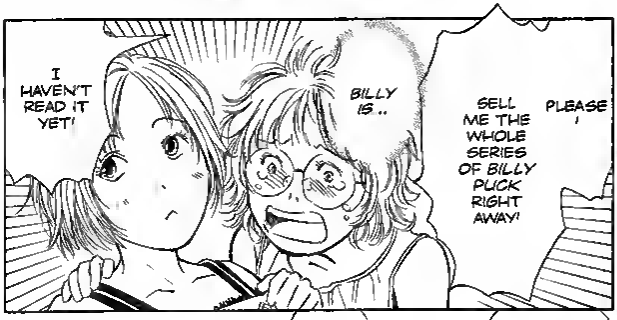
KAWA-SHIMA SENSEI...
..LIVED INTO RIPE OLD AGE..
...WRITING TONS AND TONS...
...OF NEW ADVEN-TURES FOR BILLY...
..DIDN'T HE?
I THOUGHT THAT WHEN I GOT TO JAPAN I'D BE ABLE TO BUY ALL THOSE...
...AND HAVE SO MUCH TO READ.
WAS I WRONG?
BILLY, BILLY...
I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO ALWAYS WANTED...
...TO LIVE LIKE YOU...

YOU WISHED TO "LIVE LIKE BILLY."
MORE THAN ANYONE...
...YOU PUT ALL OF YOUR WISHES INTO THE TIP OF YOUR PEN...
AS YOU DREW EACH PANEL...
MORE THAN ANYONE...
BWA-HA HA HA!
BWA-HA HA HA!
OH...
"LOOKS LIKE I'VE FINALLY WON."
"MR. FAMOUS DETECTIVE"

"OH! KAINEKO KAMEN!"
S-SHIBA-SAN?
IT'S ALL RIGHT
HAAA!
OOH!
STOP
"HEH HEH HEH! YOU'RE JUST AS SKILLFUL AS ALL THE RUMORS SAID!"
"GRR YOU'RE LIGHT ON YOUR FEET!"
"BILLY-SAN. WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?"
HUH?

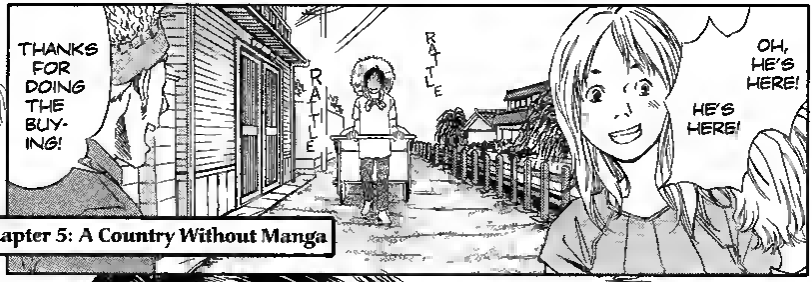
A-AYU-SAN..?
JERK
"DARE TO TAKE ONE MORE STEP, AND MY GUN WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT"
BILLY IS..
"HUMPH."

BILLY IS...
K-KOZUE-SAN!
"I WANT TO AVENGE MY BROTHER!"


I HAVEN'T READ IT YET!
BILLY IS..
SELL ME THE WHOLE SERIES OF BILLY PUCK RIGHT AWAY!
PLEASE!

NATSUKI-SAN

"OH!"
FSSh
"TAKE THAT!"
MANGA FREAKS
SIGH
BILLY IS STILL ALIVE.



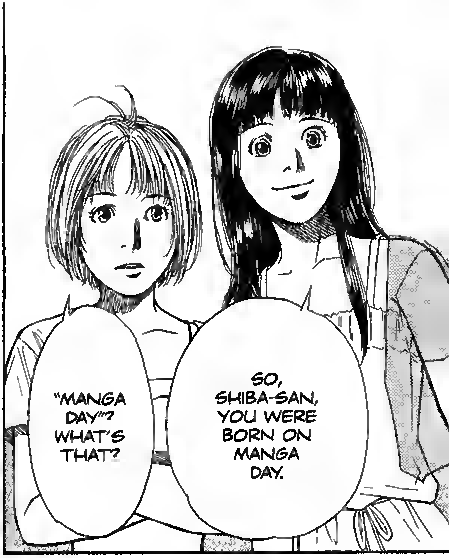
Chapter 5: A Country Without Manga

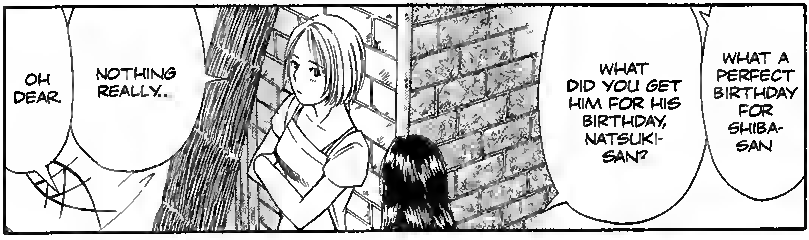
Chapter 5: A Country Without Manga

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE BAKED YOU A HOME-MADE CAKE. .
SHIBA-SAN, THIS IS A PRESENT FOR YOU.
.. BUT I FIGURED YOU'D LIKE THIS BETTER.
WOW! THIS IS AMAZING!
A HOME-MADE, HAND-WRITTEN MANGA!
IT'S A BAKUMATSU PERIOD PIECE, SO I WRAPPED IT IN JAPANESE PAPER.
Bicker from the past
THANK YOU SO MUCH! I'LL CHERISH IT!
SHIBA-SAN, HERE...
I PUT TOGETHER ALL THE DATA FOR EVERY GAME IN DOKABEN.
SINCE YOU SAID YOU WANTED IT A WHILE BACK...
WOW, I'M SO HAPPY!
SHIBA-SAN, BECAUSE YOU FOUND THIS MANGA FOR ME...
I GOT BACK SOME OF MY MOST CHERISHED MEMORIES
THANK YOU THANK YOU
IT HAPPENED TO BE A MANGA THAT I'D READ THE DAY BEFORE!
WELL...
HE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE POPULAR.

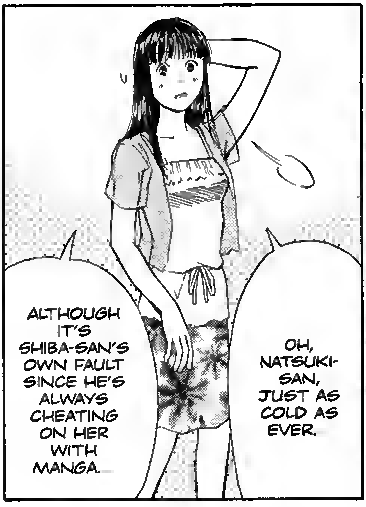
STUDY! DOKABEN BY SHINJI MIZUSHIMA, RAN IN *SHUKAN SHONEN CHAMPION* IN 1972. A CLASSIC HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL MANGA THAT TELLS THE STORY OF A CATCHER, NAMED TARO YAMADA, AND THE REST OF HIS TEAMMATES AT MEIKUN HIGH AVAILABLE FROM SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS (46 VOLUMES) AND AKITA BUNKO (31 VOLUMES). THE SERIES IS STILL RUNNING WITH THE *PRO SERIES* IN 1995 AND THE *SUPERSTAR SERIES* IN 2004.

THE WEEKLY SATIRICAL COMIC MAGAZINE PUNCH WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND ON JULY 17 OF 1841.
PUNCH LASTED OVER 151 YEARS, UNTIL 1992.
PUNCH





★ASIDE FROM THIS ONE, THE JAPAN CARTOONIST ASSOCIATION GOT TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS PUBLISHERS TO DECLARE NOVEMBER 3 (OSAMU TEZUKA'S DEATH) MANGA DAY AS WELL.



SHIBA-SAN DOESN'T WANT ME. HE WANTS THE BOOKSTORE THAT COMES WITH ME.
I FEEL BAD FOR HIM. YOU SHOULD THROW HIM A BONE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
BUT HE'S ALWAYS TRYING TO IMPRESS YOU.
FLAp

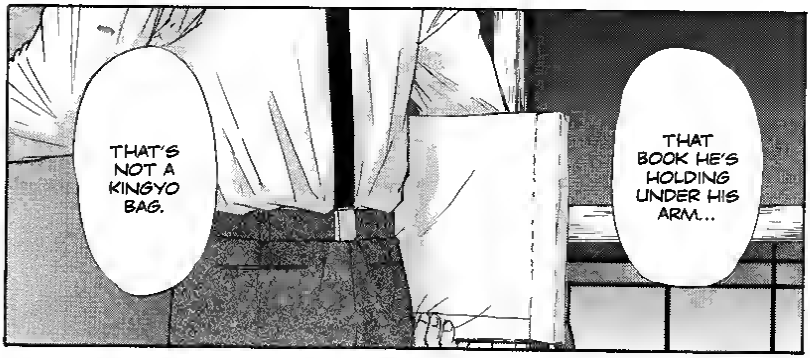
DINO
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
GRANDPA'S AT THE LIBRARY. HE SAID HE HAD SOME RESEARCH TO DO
IS THE BOSS OUT?
BUT IT'S MY BIRTHDAY TODAY..
BON APPÉTIT!
THIS IS BASICALLY THE SAME THING WE HAVE EVERY DAY
I DON'T KNOW
WHERE'S BILLY?
WE'RE LIKE SATORU AND AKIKO IN SURVIVAL.
THEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US TONIGHT.

STUDY: SURVIVAL BY TAKAO SAITO. SHUKAN SHONEN, 1976. SATORU, THE LONE SURVIVOR OF A GREAT EARTHQUAKE, FINDS HIMSELF ON A DESERTED ISLAND. LATER, A WOMAN NAMED AKIKO DRIFTS ASHORE, AND THEY LIVE TOGETHER. AVAILABLE FROM LEED KUNKO (TEN VOLUMES).

A RENAULT VEL SATIS?
WHAT'S A FANCY CAR LIKE THAT DOING PARKED IN FRONT OF KINGYO?
BILLY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HIDING IN THERE?
I'M CHECKING OUT THAT SUSPICIOUS CAR.
JRRK
BILLY !
RUSTLE

THEY SEEM TO BE QUITE CLOSE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT CUSTOMER BEFORE...

I THINK THE REAL BILLY IS A LOT NICER.
MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE NATSUKI'S NOT DOING SO BADLY AFTER ALL.


THAT'S NOT A KINGYO BAG.
THAT BOOK HE'S HOLDING UNDER HIS ARM...

IT'S A BIG BAG I WONDER WHAT'S INSIDE?
MAYBE A PICTURE BOOK? OR A BOOK OF ILLUSTRATIONS?
OH, THEY'RE GOING INSIDE TOGETHER.
WHAT ?!
SHIBA... AS A LOVER OF JUSTICE, I DON'T THINK THAT LOOKING AT OTHER PEOPLE'S POSSESSIONS IS VERY..
LOVE IS BLIND..
FLIP

BLUEBERRY • OMBRES SUR TOMBSTONE
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EUROPEAN COMICS WRITTEN IN FRENCH.
"BANDE DESSINÉE."
"B.D."? WHAT'S THAT?
IT WAS WRITTEN IN FRANCE, BUT THE STORY IS A REALISTIC WESTERN.
THIS ONE IS BLUEBERRY, BY JEAN GIRAUD
PRINTED IN FULL COLOR, IN LARGE SIZE AND HARD-COVER
THEY'RE CHARACTER-ISTICALLY BOUND LIKE HIGH-QUALITY PICTURE BOOKS
IT TELLS THE STORY OF SHERIFF MIKE BLUEBERRY'S EXCITING ADVENTURES IN 19TH CENTURY AMERICA.
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT IT. THAT'S A NATORI FOR YOU
I'M A "SEDORI."
mumble
mumble
mumble
EVEN WITH ...
...A BULLET IN HIS BACK...
mumble
BUT BLUEBERRY HAS BEEN HIS DEFINITIVE WORK SINCE IT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE EARLY 1960S SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEBUT
JEAN GIRAUD ALSO PUBLISHED VERY POPULAR SCIENCE FICTION COMICS UNDER THE NAME "MOEBIUS"

BLUEBERRY - MISTER BLUEBERRY
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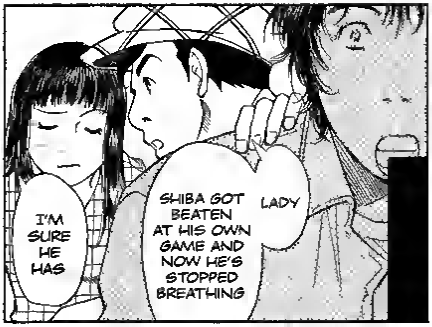
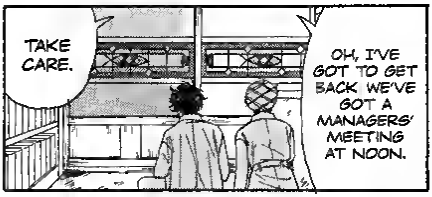
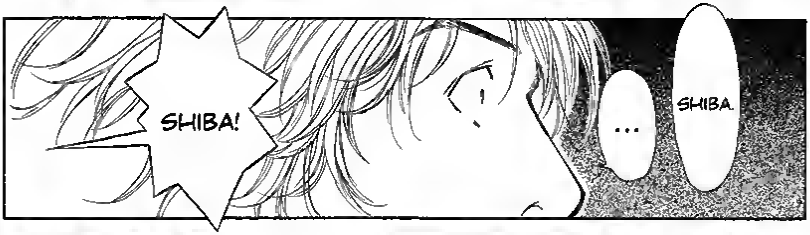
"IN BED, BLUEBERRY RECALLED HIS FIGHT WITH THE NATIVE AMERICAN GERONIMO"...
"DOLLY NURSED HIM MIRACULOUSLY BACK TO HEALTH."
"BLUEBERRY WAS SHOT IN THE BACK AND PRESUMED DEAD...
HUH?
HMM?
"NO, IT'S JUST BEGINNING"
"NOW WE CAN STOP WORRYING!"
"JUST HEAD FOR THE VALLEY!"
"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!"
"GO! HURRY!"
HMM... MIKE IS BUSY, HUH? I SEE. I SEE.
mumble
A MANGA LOVER CAN EVEN SEE THROUGH STONE
HE'S PSYCHIC?!
Huh?
NOPE I THINK HE'S USING HIS POWERS OF MANGA COMPREHENSION TO READ IT
DOES SHIBA KNOW FRENCH?!

AWW, THAT WAS SO GOOD!
HEY, HEY, WHERE'S THE REST? OR THE BEGINNING?
SHIBA SAN
THAT BELONGS TO SOME-ONE ELSE.
OH.
CLUNK
THANKS FOR THE TEA.
OF COURSE
I HAVE THE MOST FREE TIME OF ANYONE AT THE COM-PANY
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ASSIGNED ROUTINE WORK BY ANYONE.
YOU DROVE THIS YOURSELF?
IS THAT WEIRD ?
DOESN'T THIS CAR USUALLY COME WITH A DRIVER?
DON'T BE SO MOD-EST.
I HEARD THAT YOU'VE BEEN EXTREMELY BUSY.
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT IS MY JOB TO BE THINKING ABOUT THE COMPANY EVERY WAKING MOMENT.


I'M SURE HE HAS
SHIBA GOT BEATEN AT HIS OWN GAME AND NOW HE'S STOPPED BREATHING
LADY

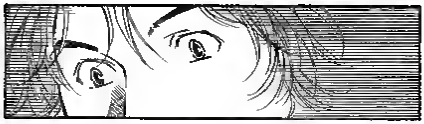
YES, YES
YOU'RE ALWAYS THE LAST THING I THINK ABOUT BEFORE I CLOSE MY EYES.
BUT YOU KNOW

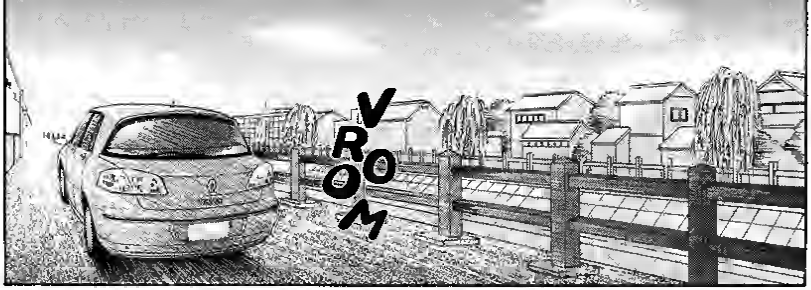

TAKE CARE.
OH, I'VE GOT TO GET BACK. WE'VE GOT A MANAGERS' MEETING AT NOON.


SHIBA!
...
SHIBA.

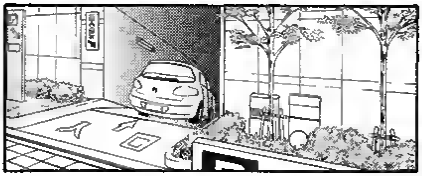
MUSIC BUSINESS
GURAU

WHAT?
UH, YEAH?




VROOM

VROOM



DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE AYU THE SEDORI'S DRIVING SKILLS OR HER MINI!
SQUEAK
AYU-SAN? CAN YOU CATCH UP?

THE RENAULT WENT IN HERE, RIGHT?
WOW, THIS COMPANY'S SOME THING ELSE.
IT'S A BIG PUBLISHING COMPANY. THEY PUT OUT ALL KINDS OF ENCYCLOPEDIA, AND BIG DICTIO-NARIES.
HMM ...
DON'T YOU KNOW THEM, BILLY?
I KNOW RANDOM HOUSE.
OH, I ALSO KNOW SHONEN GAHOSHA, WHICH PUBLISHES BILLY PUCK. ♡
I DON'T KNOW THIS COMPANY EITHER
HUH ?!
BILLY WAS BROUGHT UP IN THE U.S., BUT...
... SHIBA-SAN, EVEN YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE IT?

UM, I'VE COME FROM A STORE CALLED KINGYO USED BOOKS.
I'VE BROUGHT SOMETHING THAT ONE OF YOUR EMPLOYEES FORGOT.
WELL...
CAN I SEE WHAT THE PERSON FORGOT?
LADY, MAYBE...
...THIS COMPANY DOESN'T PUBLISH ANY COMICS...
BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, BILLY.
IT'S THIS...
OH..
I'LL NOTIFY HIM RIGHT AWAY.
PRESIDENT
HUH?
SO YOU'RE SHIBA-KUN?
WHO, NATSUKI-SAN?
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
WHOA, YOU CAN TELL HE FEELS THE RIVALRY!
GULP
YOU GOT TO JUST GIVE IT TO HIM STRAIGHT, SHIBA-SAN!

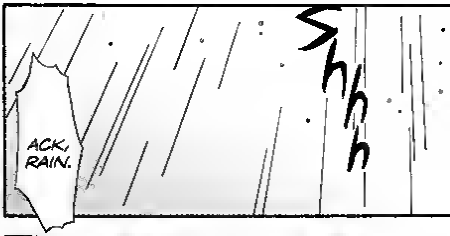
CLICK
SQUEAK
WOW!
THUNK
WOULD YOU LEND ME THE WHOLE BLUEBERRY SERIES?
I BORROWED THIS BOOK WITHOUT ASKING I'M SORRY IT WAS REALLY INTERESTING
GLEAM
I'VE GOT A CONDITION.
WHAT ?!
I HAVEN'T SAID I'LL LEND THEM TO YOU YET.
CLICK
OH.
KINGYO (AND I) ABSOLUTELY NEED NATSUKI-SAN!
QUIT WORKING AT THE STORE?! I COULD NEVER LET HER DO THAT!
COULD YOU REASON WITH HER AND GET HER TO QUIT WORKING AT THAT USED MANGA STORE AND COME BACK TO ME?
YOU'RE JUMPING AHEAD THERE
NATSUKI-SAN...
YOU CAN'T MEAN

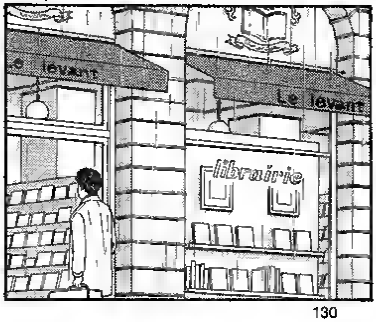
AS A FATHER, I THINK I'VE GOT EVERY RIGHT TO WORRY ABOUT MY DAUGHTER'S DIRECTION IN LIFE.
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TELL NATSUKI-SAN WHAT TO DO WITH HER LIFE.
BUT I COULD MAYBE JUST TRY BRINGING IT UP WITH HER...
SQUEAK
CLICK
SWAK
YOU'RE HER FATHER?!
DAUGH-TER. .
YOUR DAUGHTER IS HER OWN PERSON—
EVEN IF YOU'RE HER FATHER
DAUGH-TER?
LIVING WITH MY FATHER, SEITARO, THE OWNER OF KINGYO USED BOOKS, I SPENT EVERY SINGLE DAY SURROUNDED BY MANGA.
MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA, MANGA.
MANGA.
MANGA.

OPEN THE WINDOWS, AND THERE WAS MANGA.
LIFT THE FUTON, AND THERE WAS MANGA.
OPEN THE DRAWERS, AND THERE WAS MANGA.
OPEN THE FRONT DOOR, AND THERE WAS MANGA.
OH, I WANT...
I ALWAYS WISHED. .
I WANT TO GO TO A COUNTRY WITHOUT MANGA!!
BILLY ...
I KNOW WHY.
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION ..
HUH ?
IF YOU HATE MANGA SO MUCH, THEN WHY DO YOU KEEP BUYING BLUEBERRY?
BLUE-BERRY.

YOU WERE SAVED BY BLUEBERRY IN FRANCE.
JUST AS I WAS SAVED BY BILLY PUCK IN THE U.S....
YOU'RE LIKE ME, UNCLE
...BLUE-BERRY ?
SAVED BY...
SORRY! I'D NEVER MET HIM BEFORE...
THAT'S RIGHT— HE'S YOUR UNCLE, ISN'T HE, BILLY?
HOW COME?
YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THE OFFER WE MADE YESTERDAY?
1970s Paris, France
AND I CAME ALL THE WAY TO FRANCE BECAUSE I WASN'T CONFIDENT I'D BE ABLE TO WIN IF A COUNTER OFFER CAME THROUGH AND I WAS STILL IN JAPAN.
WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T GET THE TRANS-LATION RIGHTS FOR A SINGLE BOOK...
BUT WE CAN'T RAISE THE ROYALTIES ANY MORE..
YOU'RE UNSATIS-FIED WITH THE ADVANCE ?
OH, WAIT, MON-SIEUR?

EVEN IF THERE WAS, I BET IT'S JUST COMIC CARICATURES, LIKE PUNCH
AHH, I FEEL SO FREE
I BET THERE'S NO MANGA IN THIS COUNTRY.
FRANCE, HUH?





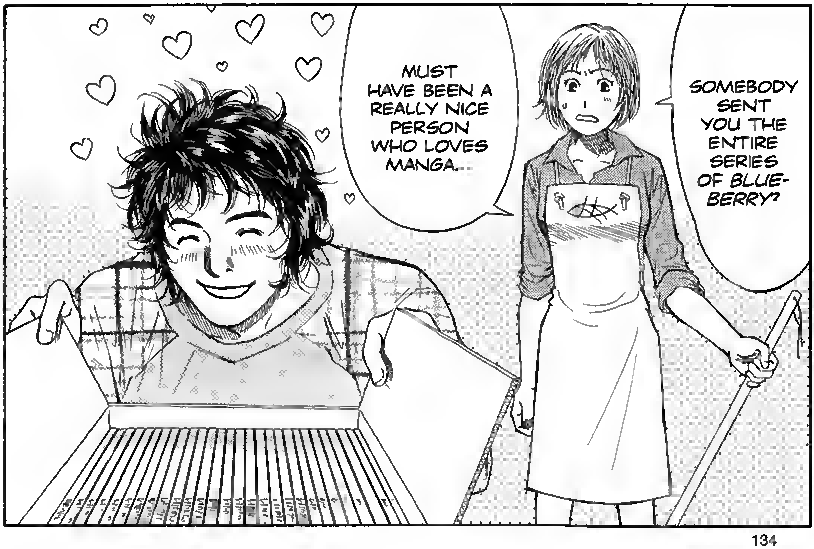
BLUEBERRY - LA PISTE DES SIOUX © DARGAUD 1971 CHARLIER & GIRAUD
WWW.DARGAUD.COM

MANGA?!
MA-
I FELT LIKE I WAS ON THE BUDDHA'S PALM.
FLAP
Heh
NO MATTER HOW FAR I RUN..
Ahahaha!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
HERE, THERE ...
IT'S ALL THE SAME ..
WE'RE ALL HUMANS ON THE SAME PLANET!
FOR SOME REASON I FELT MYSELF RELAX
A HIGH-QUALITY COMIC BOOK ABOUT THE AMERICAN WEST WRITTEN IN FRANCE
TO THINK THAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT EXISTED ..

KNOCK
I FIGURED AS MUCH...
THAT HASN'T CHANGED.
NOT AT ALL.
Ha!
AND THEN YOU STARTED TO LOVE MANGA?
IN THAT MOMENT, I FELT THE WALLS I'D BUILT UP IN MY HEART CRUMBLE DOWN.
TRRP
AHH!
I BROUGHT SOME COFFEE FOR YOUR GUESTS.
CLICK
EXCUSE ME.

SHIBA-SAN!
SLAM
OW!
IT'S HOT!
HOT!
OW OW OW!
SHIBA-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?!
YOU...
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?
IF I GET WET, I GO BACK TO NORMAL WHEN I DRY..
...BUT THE SAME CAN'T BE SAID ABOUT MANGA.
FATHER...
FATHER?
DID NATSUKI-SAN SAY SOMETHING ABOUT ME?
GRAB
PANT
PANT
PLEASE TELL ME...
OH... THAT YOU'RE A VERY...
...VERY...

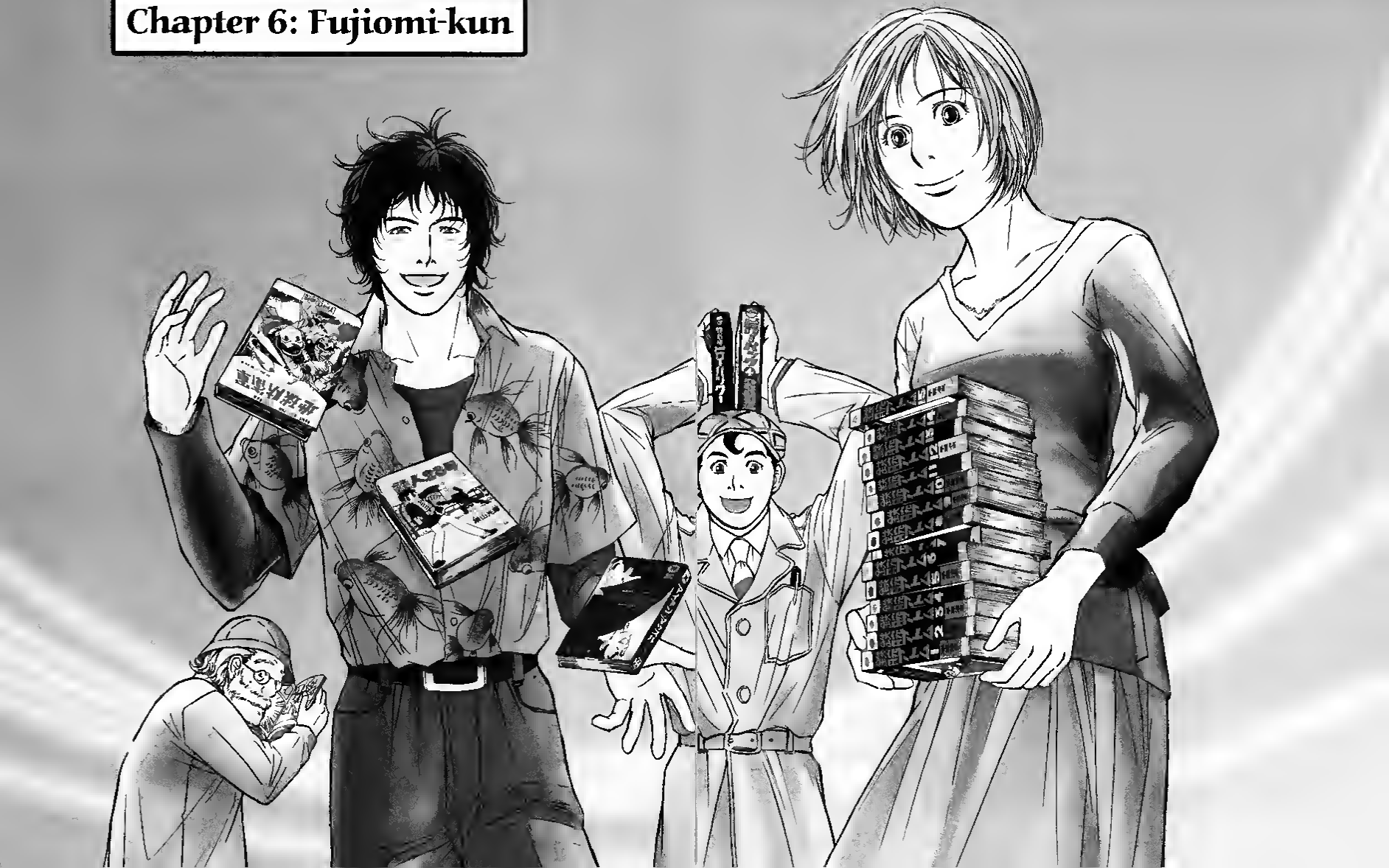
...VERY BIG MANGA FREAK...
COLLAPSE


MUST HAVE BEEN A REALLY NICE PERSON WHO LOVES MANGA...
SOMEBODY SENT YOU THE ENTIRE SERIES OF BLUE-BERRY?

BONUS IMAGE FOR BOOKSTORES

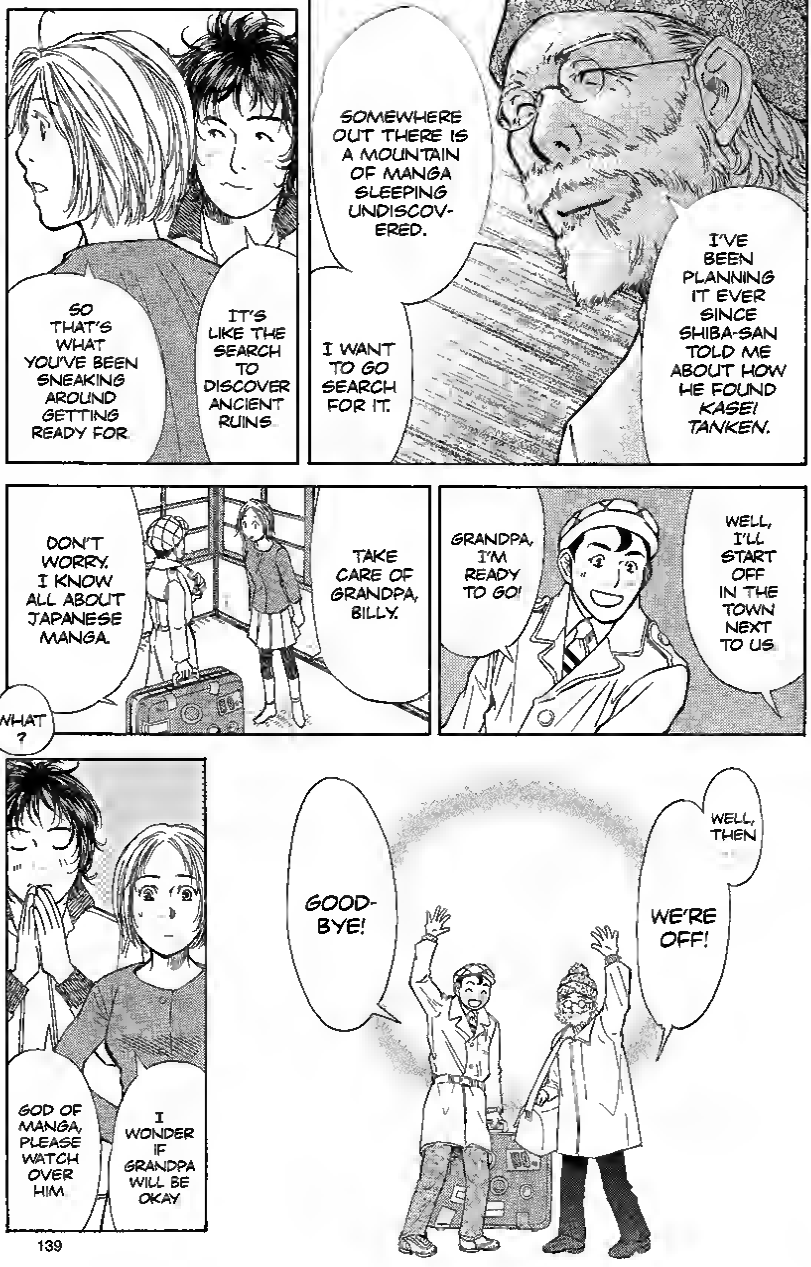
TRANSLATION OF ABOVE IMAGE
AVANT GARDE GEKKAN IKKI OUT ON THE 25TH OF EVERY MONTH!! —SEIMU YOSHIZAKI
NOW RUNNING THIS EXCITING HUMAN DRAMA FEARLESSLY COVERING ACTUAL MANGA
NEW AND OLD EASTERN AND WESTERN
[SHOWN TOGETHER, THE T-SHIRTS SPELL OUT KINGYO USED BOOKS—ED.]

Chapter 6: Fujiomi-kun



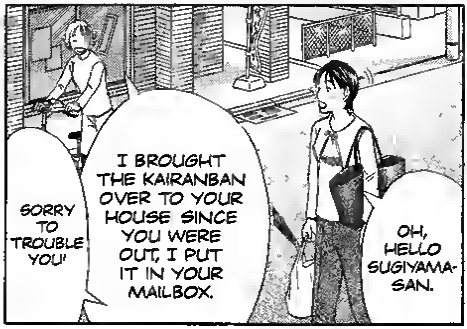
Owner of Kingyo Used Books
Seitaro Kaburagi
SO...
I'M THINKING OF GOING ON A JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF MANGA.
A JOURNEY.. YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO TRAVEL AROUND JAPAN?
UH-HUH.
OH, TAKE ME WITH YOU THEN.
HUH?
CRUNCH

KASEI TANKEN NO MONOGATARI WAS PUBLISHED IN 1960. OFTEN CITED AS THE FIRST LONG SCIENCE FICTION FANTASY MANGA IN THE WORLD, IT WAS PRINTED IN COLOR, WITH AN ARTISTIC THREE-PANEL SPREAD ON ALMOST EVERY PAGE. THE STORY OF THE DISCOVERY OF KASEI TANKEN CAN BE FOUND IN THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE KINGYO USED BOOKS NOTEBOOK. ALL VOLUMES WERE REPUBLISHED IN JAPAN IN FEBRUARY OF 2005.


I'VE BEEN PLANNING IT EVER SINCE SHIBA-SAN TOLD ME ABOUT HOW HE FOUND KASEI TANKEN.
SOMEWHERE OUT THERE IS A MOUNTAIN OF MANGA SLEEPING UNDISCOVERED.
I WANT TO GO SEARCH FOR IT.
IT'S LIKE THE SEARCH TO DISCOVER ANCIENT RUINS
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SNEAKING AROUND GETTING READY FOR.
WELL, I'LL START OFF IN THE TOWN NEXT TO US
GRANDPA, I'M READY TO GO!
TAKE CARE OF GRANDPA, BILLY.
DON'T WORRY. I KNOW ALL ABOUT JAPANESE MANGA.
WHAT?
WELL, THEN
WE'RE OFF!
GOOD-BYE!
I WONDER IF GRANDPA WILL BE OKAY
GOD OF MANGA, PLEASE WATCH OVER HIM

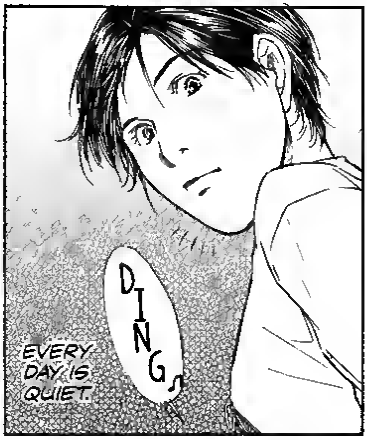
REVOLUTION
IT'S A WHOLE VOLUME OF MANGA ABOUT MITOKOMON.
MITOKO-MON REVO-LUTION ?!
THIS MANGA WAS IN HIS BAG WHEN HE GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL.
BUT I WONDER WHY HE SUDDENLY DECIDED TO GO ON THIS JOURNEY?
GRANDPA ... IS SO EASILY INFLUENCED.
This is good!
EVERY DAY IS PEACEFUL.
IT'S GOT GREAT THINGS IN IT!
I'LL GIVE YOU A GOOD DEAL!
HEY, MISS!
EVERY DAY IS CALM.
I HAVE TO GO TO THE CLEANERS TO PICK UP HIS SHIRTS AND HIS SUIT
UM, NEXT IS ..
THANK YOU!
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD, MISS!
THAT'S FINE. I'LL GIVE YOU A DEAL
IF I BUY THESE CARROTS AND THESE OYSTER MUSHROOMS TOGETHER, WILL YOU GIVE ME A DEAL?
MR GREEN-GROCER !

STUDIO MITOKOMON REVOLUTION, A MAGAZINE RELEASED IN 2006 TO COMMEMORATE THE 1,000TH EPISODE OF THE TV SERIES MITOKOMON. IT'S AN ANTHOLOGY OF STORIES AND INCLUDES WORK BY BIG JOE AND HISASHI IGUCHI

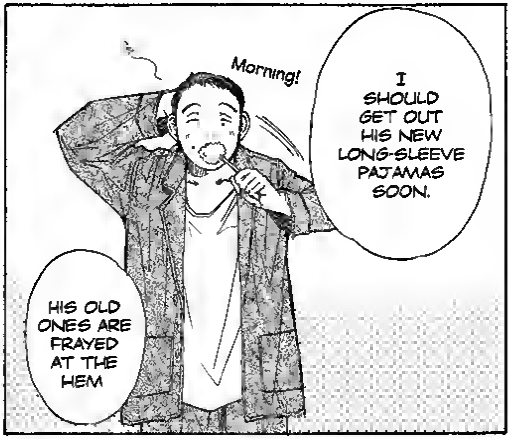

I BROUGHT THE KAIRANBAN OVER TO YOUR HOUSE SINCE YOU WERE OUT, I PUT IT IN YOUR MAILBOX.
SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU!
OH, HELLO SUGIYAMA-SAN.

OH, SASAKI-SAN.
I CAN JUST GET A STRAINER AT THE ¥99 STORE.
WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF BATH GEL.

I should get out of the office early Run a bath for me! And get beer!
IT'S HIM.
YES, YES, I BOUGHT KAKI PEAS FOR YOU TOO.


DING
EVERY DAY IS QUIET.

HMM...
OF COURSE.
I WORK HARD EVERY DAY.


Morning!
I SHOULD GET OUT HIS NEW LONG-SLEEVE PAJAMAS SOON.
HIS OLD ONES ARE FRAYED AT THE HEM

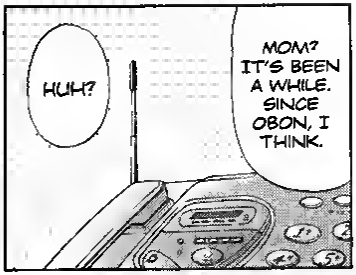
SHE'S BEEN A LITTLE REBELLIOUS LATELY, BUT THAT'S JUST PART OF GROWING UP.
IT'S OKAY. KARIN IS GROWING INTO A HEALTHY GIRL.
YEAH ...
...
THANK YOU!

[OOK TITLE: DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR TEENAGE ?]

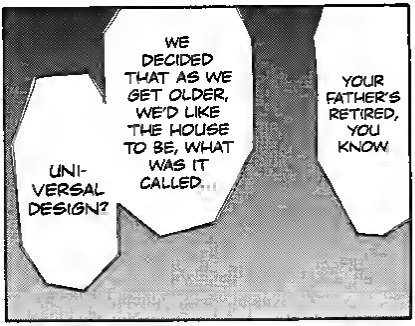
I'M SASAKI.
I'LL BE SCHOOL LEADER FOR THE YEARLY PARENT ASSOCIATION BAZAAR WE HAVE EVERY FALL.
LET'S SEE HERE ...
WHAT BAD ATTI-TUDES!
WHAT A BAD TURN OUT!
...
BUT ...
IN THIS SITUA-TION, YOU JUST HAVE TO HAVE FUN.
WELL, LET'S JUST BE POSITIVE ABOUT IT.
THEY ALWAYS PUSH THIS KIND OF THING ON YOU WHEN YOU'RE A HOUSE-WIFE...
OH WELL, I KNOW IT'S LIKE THIS EVERY YEAR...

THE PARENTS OF KIDS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL HAVE LESS OF A CONNECTION WITH EACH OTHER THAN PARENTS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS.
IF THERE WERE JUST ONE OTHER PERSON WHO WAS INTO IT, THE TWO OF US COULD HELP EACH OTHER OUT...
IT GETS LONELY WITHOUT ANY SUPPORT.
RING
YEAH, YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S NOT EASY.
THINGS AREN'T EASY FOR YOU EITHER ...
I SEE...
GRAND-MA'S ON THE PHONE!
OH MY.
MOM!
HUH? MY VOICE ... SOUNDS LIKE MY MOTHER?
OH, THIS IS KARIN
HELLO, SASAKI RESI-DENCE

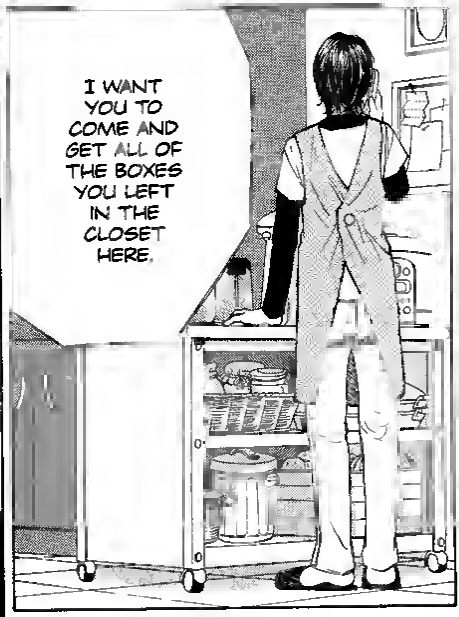
YOU'RE GOING TO REBUILD THE ENTIRE HOUSE?
REMOD-ELING?!
REMOD-ELING?


MOM? IT'S BEEN A WHILE. SINCE OBON, I THINK.
HUH?

YOU TWO HAVE REALLY MADE A BIG DECISION!
WELL, THAT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD WAY TO SPEND THE RETIREMENT MONEY.
AND SO...

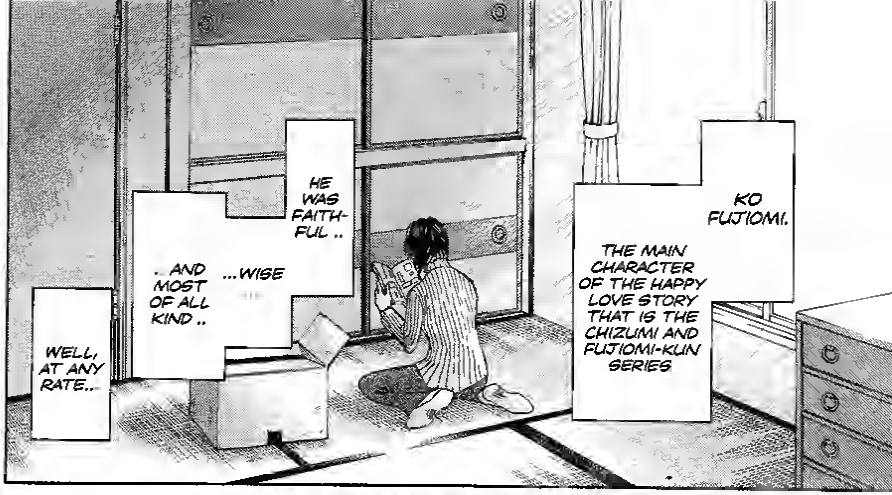

YOUR FATHER'S RETIRED, YOU KNOW.
WE DECIDED THAT AS WE GET OLDER, WE'D LIKE THE HOUSE TO BE, WHAT WAS IT CALLED...
UNI-VERSAL DESIGN?

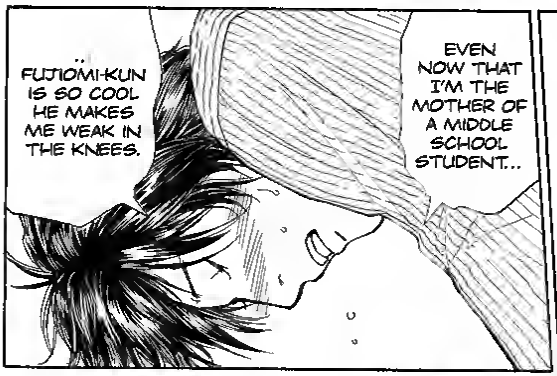
HUH?

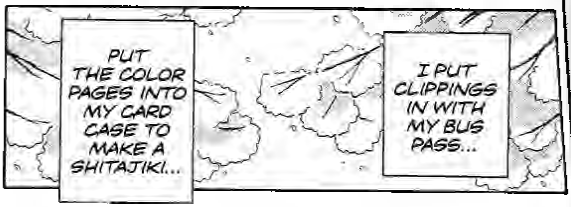

I WANT YOU TO COME AND GET ALL OF THE BOXES YOU LEFT IN THE CLOSET HERE.

IT'S BEEN OVER 15 YEARS SINCE I GOT MARRIED AND MOVED OUT. I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT'S THERE.
WELL, THEN...
DO?
BOXES?
DO I HAVE BOXES THERE?
NOT THAT MANY, BUT YOU DO.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?
THE SMELL OF HOME...
HELLO!
...
I CAN'T JUST THROW IT ALL AWAY
JUST COME TO THE HOUSE AND SEE WHAT'S HERE.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT
THIS?
I KNEW IT.
OH, WELCOME HOME
FIFTEEN YEARS, BUT I STILL WANT TO SAY, "I'M HOME!"

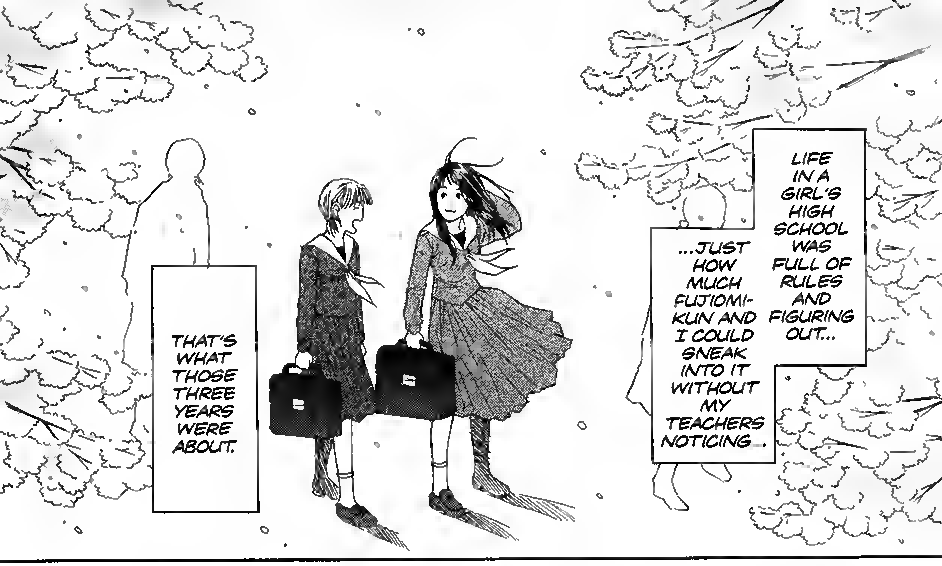
© KYOKO HIKAWA/HAKUSENSHA (LALA)


KO FUJIOMI.
THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THE HAPPY LOVE STORY THAT IS THE CHIZUMI AND FUJIOMI-KUN SERIES
HE WAS FAITH-FUL ..
.. AND MOST OF ALL KIND ..
...WISE
WELL, AT ANY RATE...

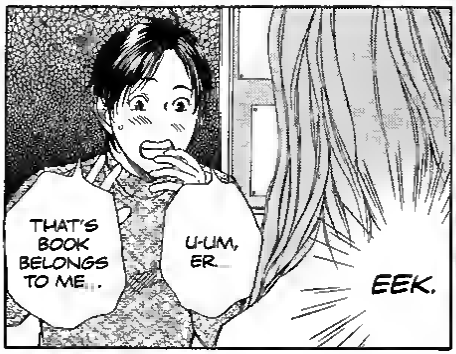




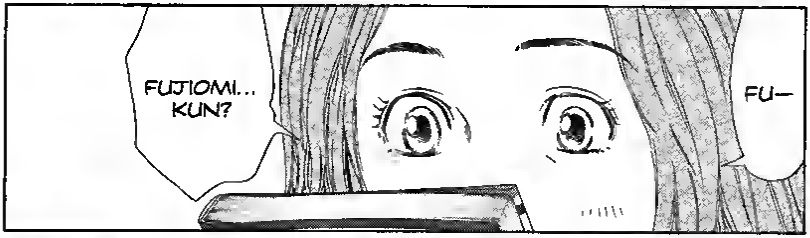
SHITAJIKI A HARD SURFACE TO PUT BETWEEN THE PAPER AND THE DESK WHEN WRITING


LIFE IN A GIRL'S HIGH SCHOOL WAS FULL OF RULES AND FIGURING OUT...
...JUST HOW MUCH FUJIOMI-KUN AND I COULD SNEAK INTO IT WITHOUT MY TEACHERS NOTICING...
THAT'S WHAT THOSE THREE YEARS WERE ABOUT.

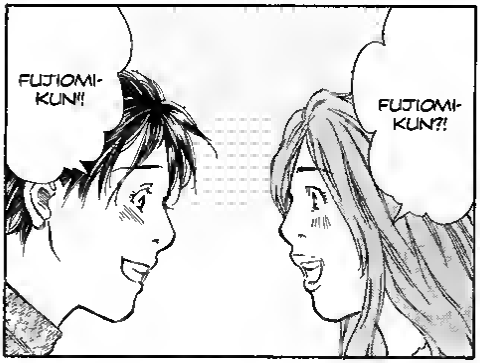
A TINY WAVE RUFFLED THE CALM OF MY LIFE
SO, THE GUIDELINES FOR THE BAZAAR SCHEDULE WILL BE AS IT SAYS ON THE PAPER I HANDED OUT..
OH!
AND TODAY IS KARIN'S CRAM SCHOOL...
FLOP
LET'S SEE... I HAVE TO BUY PORK AND BLEACH ON THE WAY HOME.
LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER WHEN THE DAY COMES.
TH UMP
TH UMP

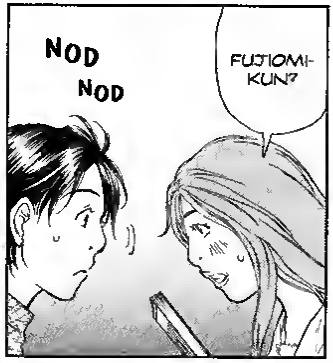

THAT'S BOOK BELONGS TO ME...
U-UM, ER...
EEK.

OH...

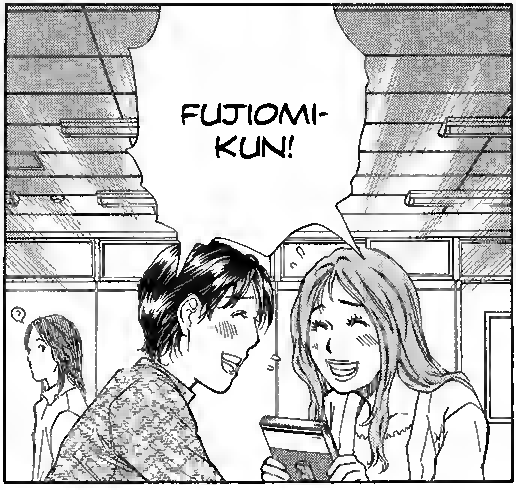

FUJIOMI... KUN?
FU—

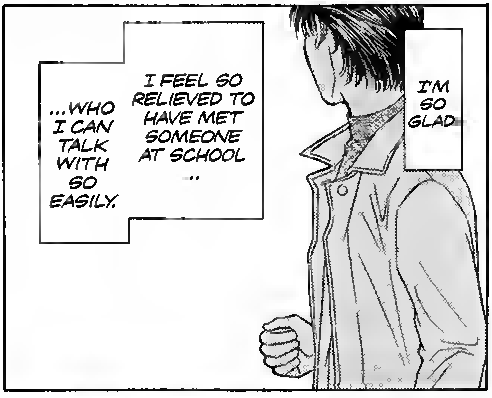
HUH?!

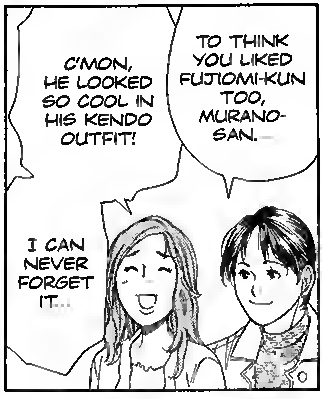

FUJIOMI-KUN!!
FUJIOMI-KUN?!

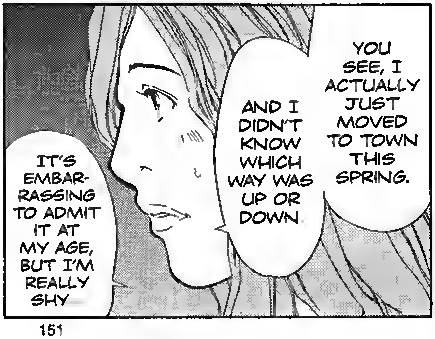

NOD NOD
FUJIOMI-KUN?

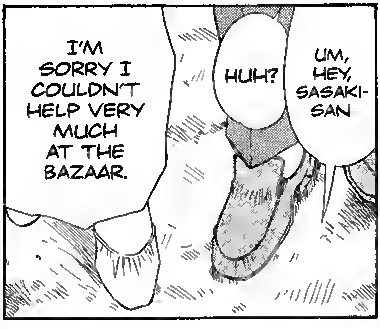
MEMORIES FLOOD MY QUIET DAYS.

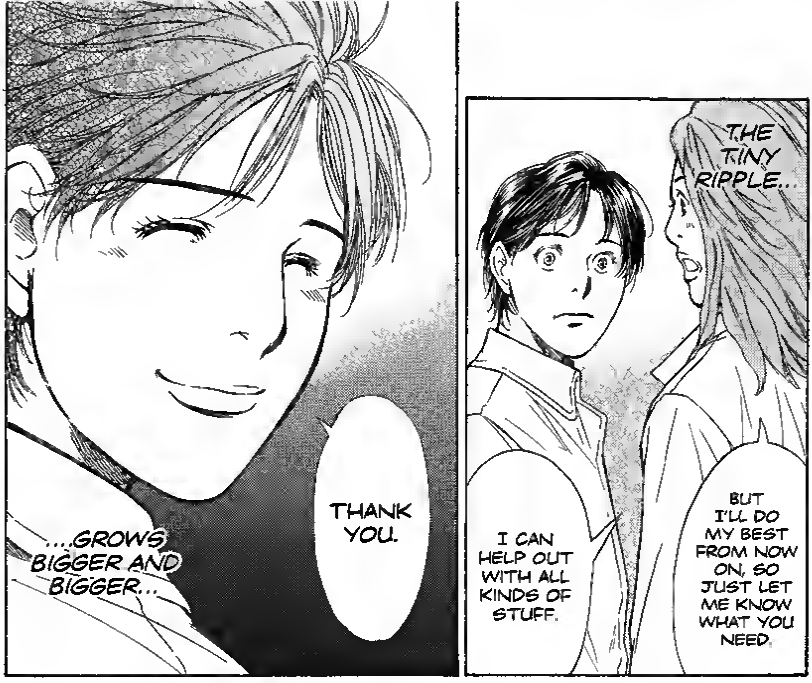

FUJIOMI-KUN!

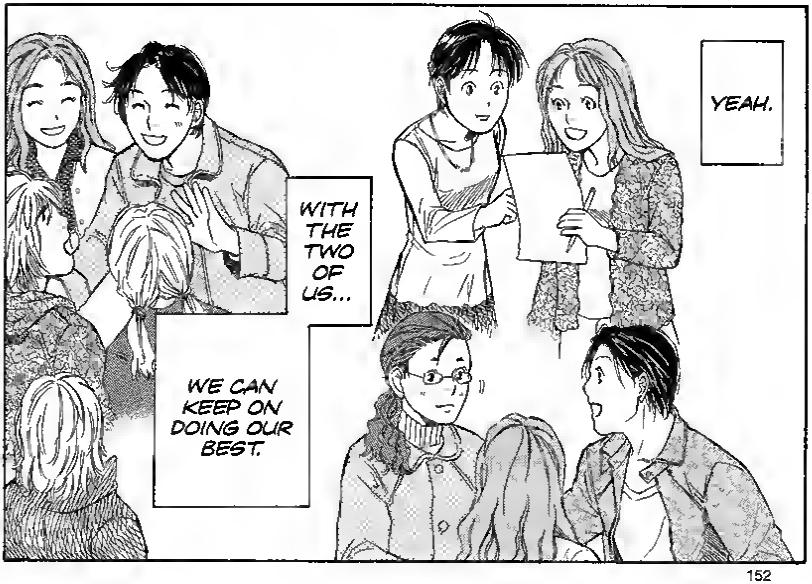

I'M SO GLAD.
I FEEL SO RELIEVED TO HAVE MET SOMEONE AT SCHOOL...
...WHO I CAN TALK WITH SO EASILY.


TO THINK YOU LIKED FUJIOMI-KUN TOO, MURANO-SAN.
C'MON, HE LOOKED SO COOL IN HIS KENDO OUTFIT!
I CAN NEVER FORGET IT...


YOU SEE, I ACTUALLY JUST MOVED TO TOWN THIS SPRING.
AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHICH WAY WAS UP OR DOWN.
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING TO ADMIT IT AT MY AGE, BUT I'M REALLY SHY.


UM, HEY, SASAKI-SAN
HUH?
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HELP VERY MUCH AT THE BAZAAR.


THE TINY RIPPLE...
BUT I'LL DO MY BEST FROM NOW ON, SO JUST LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU NEED.
I CAN HELP OUT WITH ALL KINDS OF STUFF.
THANK YOU.
...GROWS BIGGER AND BIGGER...


YEAH.
WITH THE TWO OF US...
WE CAN KEEP ON DOING OUR BEST.

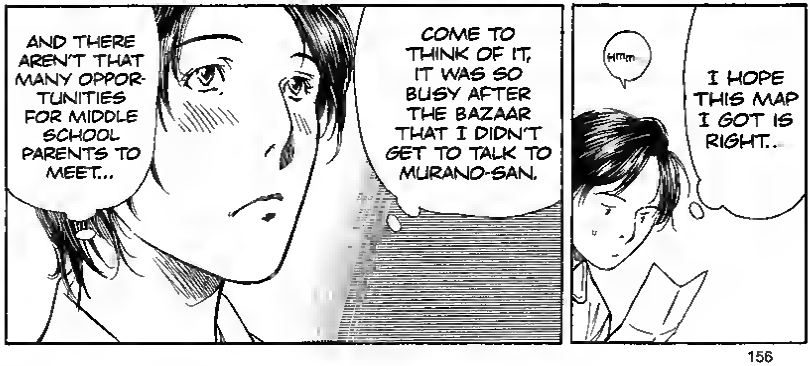
JUNIOR HIGH
FALL BAZAAR
EXCUSE ME. I'D LIKE THREE HOT DOGS.
ALL RIGHT!
OH, WELCOME!
OKAY!
I'D LIKE THAT PLEASE!
THE PLACE SURE IS HOPPING
I'M SO TIRED!
OH RIGHT. THANKS!
SASAKI-SAN! TAKE A BREAK!
WHERE'S THE BAG I LEFT HERE?
HUH?
THE BOOK'S GONE.
WHAT IS IT, SASAKI-SAN?

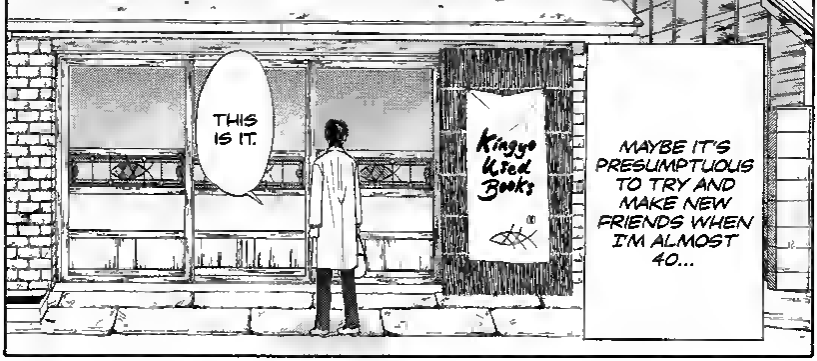
HUH?
THAT WAS YOURS?
TH-THAT BOOK...
OH!
I PUT IT IN A PAPER BAG AND LEFT IT RIGHT THERE...
THE MANGA MURANO-SAN RETURNED TO ME...
THUNK
THE OTHER USED BOOKS WERE RIGHT NEAR IT, SO I THOUGHT...
USED BOOK CENTER

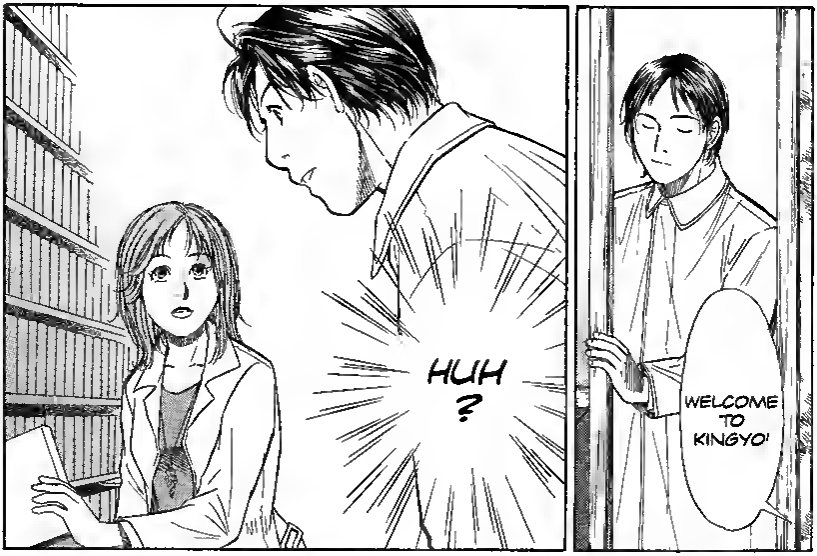
SASAKI-SAN...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
A GIRL OF ABOUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE BOUGHT IT SHE SEEMED VERY HAPPY ABOUT IT.
IT WENT PRETTY QUICKLY.
HUH? YOU SOLD IT?
OH, I—
I'LL SHOW YOU!
I'M NOT REALLY...
WHERE DO I GO TO SET UP SHIPPING AROUND HERE?
BOBBLE
OH YES.
CAN YOU CARRY IT ALL?
YOU BOUGHT ALL THAT MANGA...
MY...
...SPECIAL MANGA.
YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN.
WHAT IS IT, MA'AM?
ALTHOUGH I THINK THE CHILD WHO BOUGHT IT WILL ENJOY IT.
THAT'S A DISASTER.
IT GOT SOLD BY ACCIDENT...
THANK YOU, YOU'RE TOO KIND.
OH, WHY...

I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT IF YOU GO TO KINGYO.
HEY, MA'AM.
YES?
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET THAT EXACT BOOK BACK..
...BUT IF YOU JUST WANT THE SAME BOOK...
WHY WOULD THERE BE MANGA AT A GOLDFISH STORE?
KINGYO ?

REMEMBER KINGYO MEANS "GOLDFISH" IN JAPANESE—ED


AND THERE AREN'T THAT MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS TO MEET...
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS SO BUSY AFTER THE BAZAAR THAT I DIDN'T GET TO TALK TO MURANO-SAN.
HMM...
I HOPE THIS MAP I GOT IS RIGHT..


THIS IS IT.
Kingyo Used Books
MAYBE IT'S PRESUMPTUOUS TO TRY AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS WHEN I'M ALMOST 40...

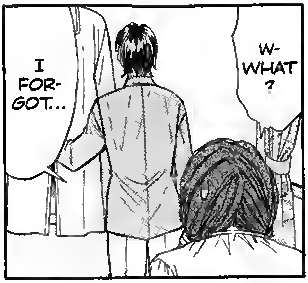

HUH ?
WELCOME TO KINGYO!

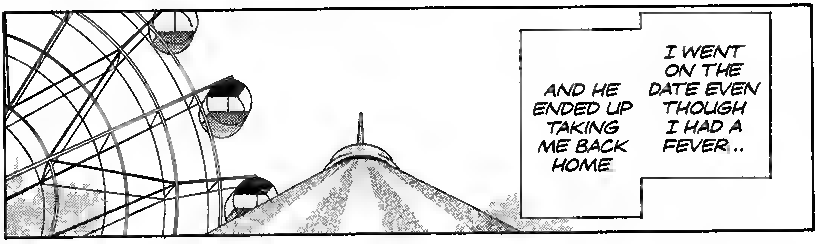
SASAKI-SAN?
...GET BIGGER...
MURANO-SAN?
THE RIPPLES...

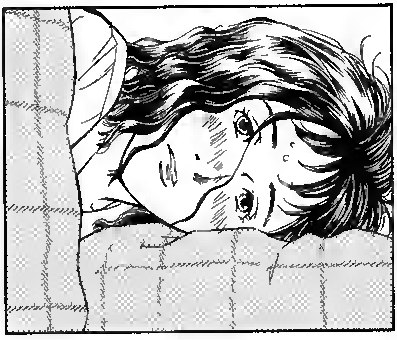
SO I STOPPED IN AT THE STORE I USED TO GO TO A LOT WHEN I WAS SINGLE.
I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK YOUR BOOK THAT DAY, SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD MAKE IT UP TO YOU...
I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE BOOK...
BUT I ALSO JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SASAKI-SAN.
ME TOO.
OH.
WOW, THOSE WERE HEAVY.
I'M HOME!
The next day...
THUD

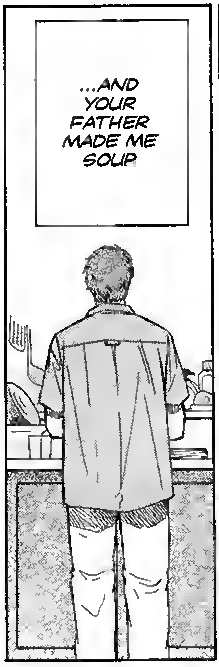
KARIN, DID YOU READ THIS MANGA?
THEY WERE LINED UP ON THE SHELF IN THE LIVING ROOM.
GO RIGHT AHEAD.
DID YOU LIKE IT? WAS IT INTER-ESTING?
YEAH
WASN'T FUJIOMI-KUN COOL?
IS HE YOUR TYPE, MOM?
OH, WELL, SURE...
HE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM DAD
WHY?
HUH?
DAD CAN'T FIGHT.
AND HE'S NOT VERY IMPRES-SIVE
WHY?
I CAN'T REALLY SAY..
OH!
!

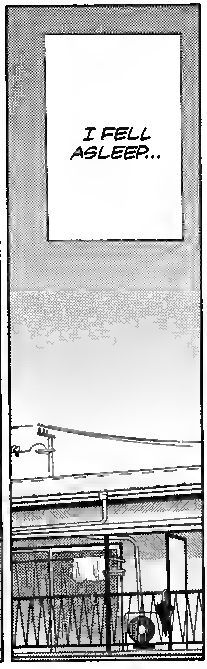
...FIRST STARTED DATING
WHEN YOUR FATHER AND I...

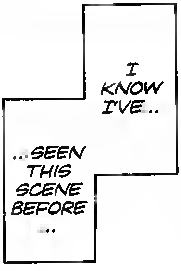

I FOR-GOT...
W-WHAT?


I WENT ON THE DATE EVEN THOUGH I HAD A FEVER..
AND HE ENDED UP TAKING ME BACK HOME




...AND YOUR FATHER MADE ME SOUP


I FELL ASLEEP...


I KNOW I'VE..
...SEEN THIS SCENE BEFORE...

HUH?

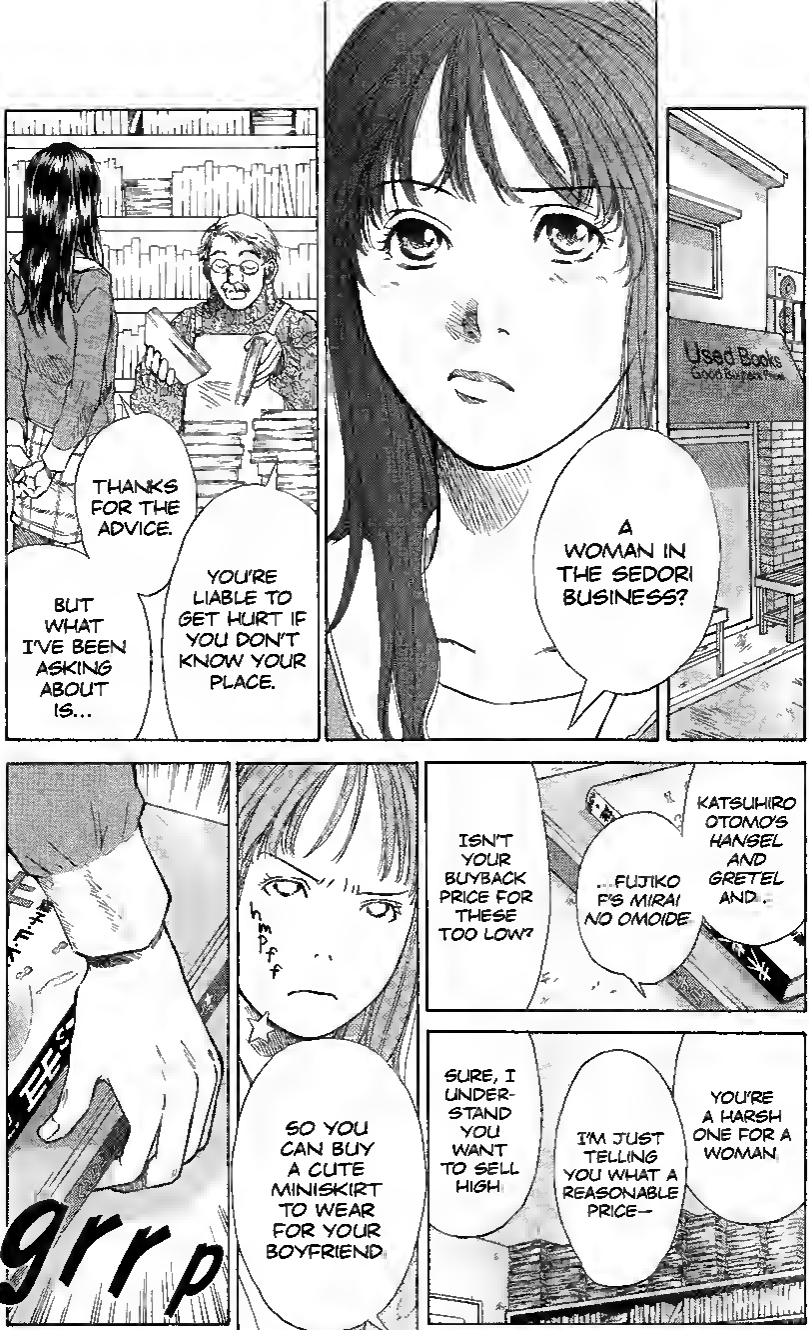
OH RIGHT...
IN CHIZUMI AND FUJIOMI-KUN
HERE YOU GO.
UNLIKE FUJIOMI-KUN'S, THE OJIYA THAT APPEARED WAS DISHED UP SO DELICATELY.
shredded seaweed
dried fish flakes
pickled plum
sesame seeds
HUH?
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
YOU SHOULD EAT SOME IF YOU CAN.
THAT'S RIGHT. AND...
SO THEN DAD BECAME YOUR "FUJIOMI-KUN"?
OH, THAT'S THE EXACT LINE.
Of course his tone is completely different.

I WASN'T WRONG.
HMM...
GOHOJI-KUN..
..AND HE ALWAYS HAD A LEAF IN HIS MOUTH...
HE HAD AN X-SHAPED SCAR ON HIS FACE.
GOHOJI-KUN WAS THE GANG LEADER..
HUH?
GOHOJI-KUN IS MORE MY TYPE
GOHOJI-KUN?!
HMM?
HEY, MOM...
MORE THAN FUJIOMI-KUN..
DEAR.
IF KARIN BRINGS A BOYFRIEND HOME SOMEDAY...
...DON'T GET SCARED AND RUN AWAY, OKAY?
?

NO ONE WILL KNOW.
TAKE IT, TAKE IT.
HEY, YOU STAND WATCH OVER THERE.
WE SELL USED BOOKS
WHAP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Chapter 7: The Sedori Business

WAIT.
L-LET'S GO...
UHH, NOTHING...
THE BOOK YOU STOLE.
LEAVE IT HERE.
UH-HUH.
WE'RE IN THE MANGA SEDORI BUSINESS, AREN'T WE?
YEAH?
HEY, OKA-DOME.
A SEDORI BUYS VALUABLE BOOKS FROM A CHEAP BOOKSTORE...
...AND SELLS THEM AT A HIGHER PRICE TO ANOTHER STORE FOR PROFIT, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
BUT RECENTLY...

Chapter 7: The Sedori Business


STUDY!
HANSEL AND GRETEL, A SHORT MANGA COLLECTION BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO PUBLISHED IN 1981 CONSISTING OF FIVE SHORT STORIES INCLUDING THE TITLE STORY, WHICH FIRST APPEARED IN FOUKAN YOUNG COMIC SPECIAL ISSUE YOUNG COMIC IN 1978.
Used Books
Good Buyers Price
A WOMAN IN THE SEDORI BUSINESS?
THANKS FOR THE ADVICE.
YOU'RE LIABLE TO GET HURT IF YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR PLACE.
BUT WHAT I'VE BEEN ASKING ABOUT IS...
STUDY!
MIRAI NO OMOIDE: MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE BY FUJIKO F. FUJIO PUBLISHED IN BIG COMIC IN 1970, A STORY OF WHITO CORPORATION, A COMPANY THAT SPECIALIZES IN RECYCLING OLD BUILDINGS. FUJIKO F. FUJIO'S LAST WORK TO BE SERIALIZED IN A MAGAZINE FOR ADULTS AND WAS ADAPTED INTO A LIVE-ACTION FILM IN 1992.
KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S HANSEL AND GRETEL AND...
...FUJIKO F'S MIRAI NO OMOIDE
ISN'T YOUR BUYBACK PRICE FOR THESE TOO LOW?
YOU'RE A HARSH ONE FOR A WOMAN
I'M JUST TELLING YOU WHAT A REASONABLE PRICE—
SURE, I UNDERSTAND YOU WANT TO SELL HIGH
hmpf
SO YOU CAN BUY A CUTE MINISKIRT TO WEAR FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND
grrp

I HAVEN'T BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS THAT LONG...
...FOR NOTHING.
I'M TAKING IT ALL BACK.
shff shff
WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT TO SELL?
THIS SEDORI...
...MIGHT SELL MANGA, BUT SHE WON'T SELL HER PRIDE.
THAT COULDN'T BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH
Gnn
BUT HE TALKED TO ME LIKE I WAS SOME HORNY GIRL.
YOU'LL COME OUT ON THE LOSING END IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT HAIR-TRIGGER TEMPER.
YOU'RE SUP-POSED TO BE A PRO

I'M THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED YOU TO THAT STORE.
HUH?
SORRY, KOSHINO
Maelstrom of self-loathing
I HAVE TO LET GO OF MY PRIDE
I'M A PRO, I'M A PRO...
IT WAS ALSO MY FAULT FOR LOSING MY TEMPER.
YOU COULDN'T KNOW THAT THE USUAL BOOKSELLER WOULDN'T BE THERE THE STORE'S BEEN HANDED DOWN TO THE NEXT GENERATION, AFTER ALL.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SAY THAT TO YOUR BOYFRIEND?
IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM, OKADOME.
RIGHT?
SKRRP
OKA-DOME IS A RIVAL
PARDON ME.

DID YOU GET DUMPED?
OFF TO WORK!
UH, YEAH...
HEY, IT'S OKA-DOME!
OKA-DOME!
NEKOTAMA-DO
Lending Library
NEKO-TAMA-DO...?
A LENDING LIBRARY
WHAT'S THIS?
WELL, COME IN, COME IN.
I WAS VISITING HIM AT THE HOSPITAL NEARBY
A BIKER BUDDY OF MINE HAS APPENDI-CITIS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

OTAMA-SAN!
OH, AYU-CHAN.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, OTAMA-SAN.
HOW ARE YOU, HIME-CHAN?
MEW
THIS BIG LUG IS TOME-SAN, A FELLOW SEDORI.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU
WELL NOW
I'LL MAKE US SOME TEA.
OH, I'LL DO IT.
THANK YOU, DEAR.

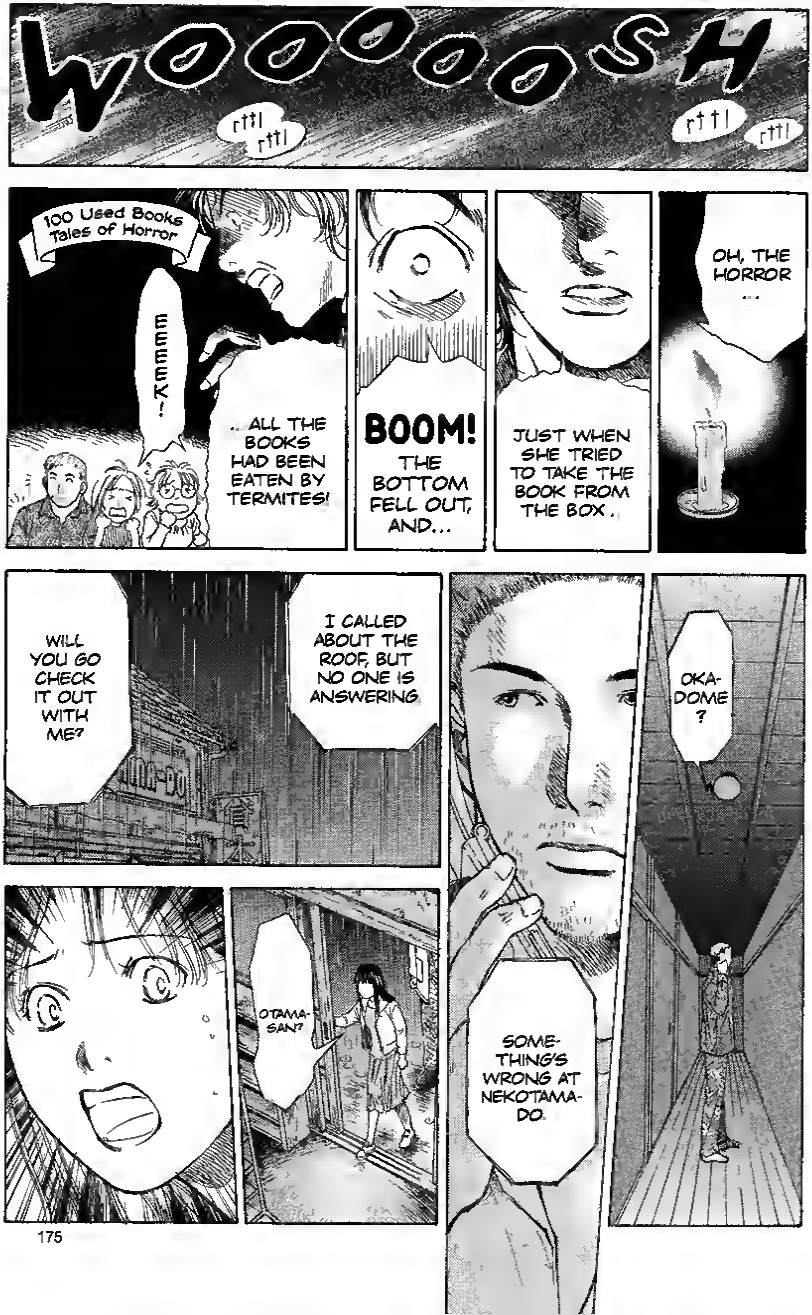
A MANGA LENDING LIBRARY...
IN BUSINESS OVER 40 YEARS...
THERE'S NOTHING BUT OLD AND RARE MANGA ON THE SHELVES.
THAT'S NOT ALL.
ABASHIRI IKKA FROM CHAMPION COMICS ARE ALL "GREEN" EDITIONS
MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA'S SANGOKUSHI VOLUMES 1-3 WITH THE ORIGINAL COVERS BEFORE THEY WERE REDONE
THE SEAGULL LOGO ON THE SUNDAY COMICS MANGA IS ROUND.
A TREASURE TROVE FOR SEDORI...
THOUGH IT DOESN'T MATTER TO PEOPLE WHO JUST WANT TO READ THE BOOKS
THE OLD FOLKS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD VISIT NOW AND THEN TO THIS RUN-DOWN STORE
THEY READ FOR THE NOSTALGIA.
AYU-CHAN AND THAT ONE ALWAYS WEARING THE ODD CLOTHES—
SHIBA-SAN FROM KINGYO.
THAT'S RIGHT—ADVISE ME ON WHAT NEW TITLES TO STOCK.
IT'S A MIRACLE THE STORE HAS LASTED THIS LONG...

ABASHIRI IKKA (ABASHIRI FAMILY) BY KO HAGAI, BEGAN SERIALIZATION IN 1969 IN SHONEN CHAMPION. A REALLY FANTASTICAL GAG MANGA FOLLOWING THE EXPLOITS OF THE GANGSTER FAMILY THE ABASHIRIS. NOW AVAILABLE IN REPRINT EDITION FROM CHAMPION COMICS (15 VOLUMES TOTAL) AND FROM KADOKAWA RUNKO (5 VOLUMES TOTAL).

YOU HAVE TO THANK HER PROPERLY FOR MAKING THE TEA!
WHA— YES?
HEY! TOME-SAN!
grrn
YOU'RE WEL-COME.
OH ...
THANK YOU.
HEY! PUT THE BOOKS BACK IN THEIR PROPER ORDER!
WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THIS LENDING LIBRARY GOING FOR SO LONG
OTOME-SAN HAS ALWAYS VALUED PRO-PRIETY
I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH THIS PLACE EVER SINCE
I'm sorry.

OH!!
REALLY
WHAT A GREAT STORE.
OH?
LOOKS LIKE THE ROOF MIGHT GIVE OUT.
IT COULD BLOW OFF WITH A STRONG WIND.
TOME-SAN SAID HE'D COME AGAIN TO FIX IT.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, AYU-CHAN.
WHY?
WELL ...
I'M THINKING OF CLOSING THE STORE.

I'M GIVING ALL OF THE BOOKS HERE TO YOU.
NO...
BUT I HAD FUN.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
I DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP GOING.
MY HEART IS PRETTY SHOT.
WHAT?
NO, OTAMA-SAN...
NO...
...MY SWEET BABIES OFF PROP-ERLY.
I'D LIKE YOU TO SELL...


WOOOOOSH
rrrr
rrrr
rrrr
rrrr
100 Used Books Tales of Horror
mmmm...
.. ALL THE BOOKS HAD BEEN EATEN BY TERMITES!
BOOM!
THE BOTTOM FELL OUT, AND...
JUST WHEN SHE TRIED TO TAKE THE BOOK FROM THE BOX.
OH, THE HORROR ...
WILL YOU GO CHECK IT OUT WITH ME?
I CALLED ABOUT THE ROOF, BUT NO ONE IS ANSWERING.
OTAMA-SAN?
SOME-THING'S WRONG AT NEKOTAMA-DO.
OKA-DOME ?

OTAMA-SAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OWW...
IS IT HER HEART?
OTAMA-SAN!!
mew
MY LEG..
I TRIPPED ON THE STEP.
MY LEG HURTS...
YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET!
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?
NO...
SHE PACKED ALL OF THE BOOKS IN THE STORE BY HERSELF....
WE'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL.
krrcl
rrrl
rrrl
rrrl
THE ROOF IS GOING TO FLY OFF.

skrrt
skrrt
I'M GOING WITH YOU!
IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, OTAMA-SAN.
VRRRM
YOU HAVEN'T COME TO TAKE THE BOOKS, AYU-CHAN.
rgency Entranc
LOOK, OTAMA-SAN.
YOU PROFIT BY SELLING BOOKS, NO?
pssh
pssh
YOU'RE A SEDOR!
pssh
PRINCESS COMICS
白木蓮抄
花組姫君子 燃えロン!
©YUKIKO KAI / AKITA SHOTEN

IT HAS NO MERCHANDISE VALUE.
IT WAS FROM A LENDING LIBRARY THAT NO LONGER EXISTS, SO IT'S STAINED AND DIRTY.
OKADOME GAVE IT TO ME AS A PRESENT LONG AGO.
I LOVE THIS MANGA.
YES, YUKIKO KAI'S MAGNOLIA SHO.. SO BEAUTIFUL.
.. IS ABLE TO FIND MEANING IN SUCH THINGS
OKADOME ...
. . IS PROOF OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO READ THIS MANGA.
. OKADOME SAID THAT EVERY ONE OF THE CHECKOUT LOGS IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK
BUT. .
SO I KNOW I HAVE TO LET GO OF MY PRIDE.
I'M A PRO.
...AND I JUST CAN'T SELL MY SOUL...
BUT I'M ALSO ONLY HUMAN...
THERE ARE MANGA THAT ARE SAVED BY THAT.

OH.
AND DO IT PROPERLY, OKAY?
heh heh
THEN WRITE YOUR NAME IN THE MEMBER-SHIP LOG.
I'D LIKE TO BORROW THIS BOOK
EX-CUSE ME
AYU-CHAN
...OTAMA-SAN OR NEKOTAMA-DO...
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE...
THE MANGAKA'S RENDERING OF THE KIMONO IS FIRST-RATE.
SUCH BEAU-TIFUL LINES ...
IS THAT MAGNOLIA SHO? WHAT A SAD STORY..
SHE WAS A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME WHEN WE MET IN THE MANGA CLUB IN COLLEGE
MY WIFE'S A BIG FAN
YOU KNOW SO MUCH.
SHAAA
WHAT A RELIEF
Whew!
CONSID-ERING HER ADVANCED AGE, I'D LIKE TO KEEP HER FOR OBSER-VATION
IT WAS A MILD CASE, IN SPITE OF HER HEART CONDITION.

KO-SHINO
HUH?
THE ENGINE WON'T START.
MOVE !
!
YOU'RE RIGHT
WOOSSSSH
WOOSSH
SPISSH
SPISSH
SPISSH
SPISSH
SLAM
OKA-DOME.

SHAAA
THE MANGA ...
THE MANGA WILL BE RUINED.
HUF
HUF
AS HARD AS I TRY, I CAN'T STOP IT.
I CAN'T CATCH UP.
TRRD
OWW ...
DON'T WAIT FOR ME!
GO ON AHEAD WITH-OUT ME!

ush
"A WOMAN IN THE SEDORI BUSINESS."
DAMMIT!
STRENGTH
MUCH MORE..
..I HAD MORE
HOW I WISH..
TUUGG
HURRY!
THIS WAY
SORRY
THANKS
splssh splssh
splssh splssh

SHAAAAA

WE SHOULD BOARD UP THE ROOF FIRST.
OH..
WAIT.
THE BOOKS MIGHT FALL OUT IF WE TRY TO CARRY THEM NOW.
..TO SAVE OTAMA-SAN'S LIFE?
DID YOU SACRI-FICE YOUR-SELVES ...
IN SPITE OF HER HEART CONDI-TION
SHE'S A MILD CASE...
I'M SORRY..

I MAY TALK BIG, BUT...
.. I'M A HORRIBLE SEDORI.
I'M SORRY
I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU...
KOSHINO.
...
LET'S LOOK INSIDE.
SQSSH

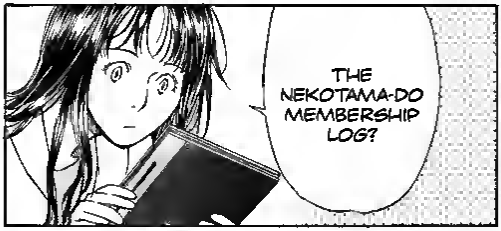
THEY'RE WRAPPED IN PLASTC?
...CARE-FULLY.
THEY'VE ALL BEEN PROPERLY WRAPPED IN PLASTIC...
WOW...
THIS ONE
AND THIS ONE
THIS ONE TOO
TH—
drip
mew

NEKOTAMA-DO
貸本
A VETERAN OF THIS BUSINESS FOR OVER 40 YEARS
OTAMA-SAN FOR YOU
THAT'S

kmch kmch kmch

Pink
Wish
THE ONLY BOOK WE'RE TAKING WITH US IS THIS ONE.

OKADOME...
NO.
ARE WE TAKING ALL OF THESE BOOKS TO KINGYO?


THE NEKOTAMA-DO MEMBERSHIP LOG?

SOMEONE WHO'S WILLING TO TAKE OVER A RUN-DOWN LENDING LIBRARY. SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO ENJOY LIFE INSTEAD OF MAKE MONEY.

WE SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO FIND ONE PERSON.
WHO?

GO FOR IT, BOSS!
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP FIND SOMEONE TOO.

Billy and Grandpa's Curious Travelogue
Episode 1
WHERE ARE WE, GRANDPA?
A CULTURAL FESTIVAL FOR AN ART SCHOOL.
WHY ARE WE HERE?
WE MIGHT FIND SOME RARE MANGA AT THESE KINDS OF FESTIVAL BAZAARS.
OHH.
HAMABI FESTIVAL
EVERY-ONE'S IN COSTUME.
THEY SURE GO ALL OUT AT THESE ART SCHOOLS.
COS-TUMES
I'D BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO PLAY DRESS UP
HEH
AIEEEE!
SOMEBODY!!
WHAT?
WHAT WAS THAT?

IT CAME FROM THE MAZE.
Maze Entrance
LET'S CHECK IT OUT.
H-HE'S DEAD!

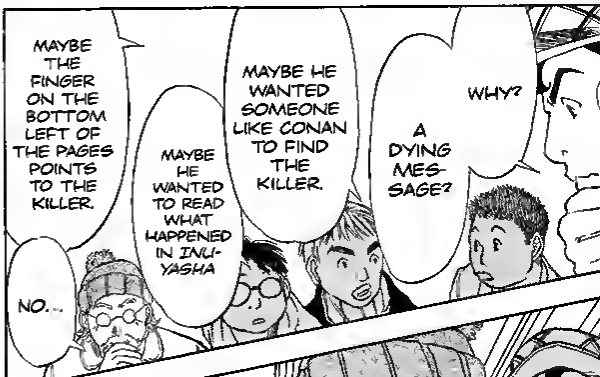
ONE CLEAN STRIKE TO THE BACK...
PERFECTLY EXECUTED ..

THERE WERE FOUR PEOPLE NEAR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...
ONE OF THEM IS THOUGHT TO BE THE KILLER.
ANY-THING THAT MIGHT BE A CLUE...
HEY?

...A COPY OF SHONEN SUNDAY.

IT'S..
THE VICTIM IS CLUTCHING SOMETHING IN HIS ARMS..

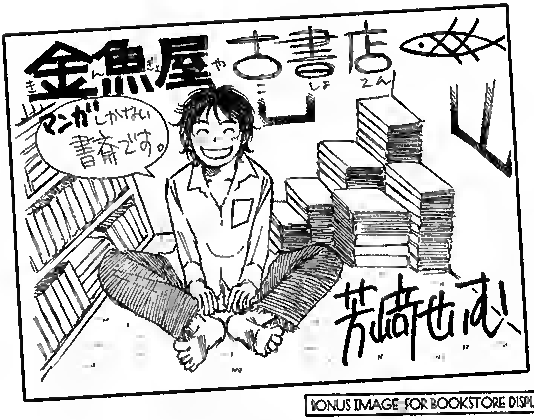
I GOT IT.
YES.


NO...
MAYBE THE FINGER ON THE BOTTOM LEFT OF THE PAGES POINTS TO THE KILLER.
MAYBE HE WANTED TO READ WHAT HAPPENED IN INU-YASHA
MAYBE HE WANTED SOMEONE LIKE CONAN TO FIND THE KILLER.
A DYING MES-SAGE?
WHY?

...IS NOT THE PIRATE FOUND ON SHONEN JUMP...
THE LOGO ON THE SPINE OF SHONEN SUNDAY...
...OR THE MOLE ON MAGAZINE...

THE KILLER IS YOU!!
HUH?
GRAND-PA.

ARGH!
IT'S YOU, MR. CATFISH.
...OR THE MAN WITH THE CHECKERED HAT ON CHAMPION...
HERE'S YOUR PRIZE—A NOTE-BOOK.
YOU'VE SUCCESSFULLY CLEARED THE MYSTERY EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE MANGA CLUB!!
GOOD JOB!
THAT'S CORRECT!!
YAY!
Days later
...AND SYMBOLIZES ITS AMBITION TO PERSEVERE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE MURKY LAKE UNTIL THE DAY IT GETS BIGGER.
THE CATFISH FIRST APPEARED IN 1955 IN CHUGAKUSEI NO TOMO, WHICH WAS AN EARLIER INCARNATION OF BOYS' LIFE, WHICH WAS AN EARLIER INCARNATION OF BIG COMIC...
HMM, A KIND OF BACKWARD-THINKING POSITIVE ATTITUDE...
Meaning, "Just you wait!"
S-sorry.
BY THE WAY, WHY ON EARTH WAS THE KILLER DRESSED LIKE A CATFISH?
HUUSSH
A simple question



BONUS IMAGE FOR BOOKSTORE DISPLAY 2

TRANSLATION OF ABOVE IMAGE
KINGYO USED BOOKS BY SHIMU TOSHIZAKI
SHIBA SAYS, "A MANGA ONLY SANCTUARY."

KINGYO USED BOOKS NOTEBOOK

More useful information about the manga found on the shelves of **Kingyo Used Books**!

Text by Hiroshi Hashimoto.

Born in 1948 in Kumamoto, Japan. Owner of the used bookstore Kirara Bunko. Aside from running his bookstore, he also teaches at a preparatory school and is active in a nonprofit organization. Fellow alumni of his elementary school include manga commentators Hiroshi Yonezawa and Yukari Fujimoto. His dream is to build a manga library in Aso. Hashimoto was asked to write this column when being interviewed for information for this series.

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860-0860
Tel: 096-345-4991
http://kirarabunko.cool.ne.jp/

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This series is featured in Chapter 1:
The Components of Memory

Dr. Slump (18 volumes)

By Akira Toriyama

Published by Shueisha beginning in 1980

Akira Toriyama's *Dr. Slump* was serialized in *Weekly Shonen Jump* from 1980 to 1984. Collected into 18 volumes, the series is still readily available in Japan. In a publishing climate where even the most popular manga series eventually goes out of print, the fact that this series is still available twenty years later attests to its popularity. (This fact, however, isn't good news for used bookstores. Since older editions are readily available as reprints, the original editions don't have an especially high collector value.)

Why is the series beloved by so many people? Some say it's the hip West Coast vibe from the U.S. that pervades the story, and others say it's the adorable super-deformed art. I believe its popularity derives from the extreme simplicity and clarity of the story, which appeals to children, adolescents and adults alike.

A lot of mangaka have a tendency to twist their own brains to squeeze out interesting themes, stories, and characters. Often times, however, their best intentions get too complicated and things fall apart. Akira Toriyama never does this.

Much like his heroine Arale, Toriyama has a strong sense of curiosity and tends to operate on instinct. He truly enjoys writing manga. His series has no overreaching storyline or theme or twists. Certainly his artwork is genius, but he draws what he wants to, spouts an endless stream of risqué jokes, and often misses his deadlines after getting too absorbed in his plastic models. *Dr. Slump* seems like it was written by a child. But that's exactly why it works.

Most manga magazines back in 1980 were focused on romantic comedies. But with the publication of *Dr. Slump* and other things geared toward children, *Weekly Shonen Jump* exploded in popularity. The "Golden Era of *Shonen Jump*" had begun. It was around this time that the Shueisha building came to be known as the "Arale-chan Building."

The first printing of the tankobon easily sold over two million copies, astounding numbers for the time. Character merchandise based on the anime also sold like hotcakes. Arale mania hit and became something of a social phenomenon, with "Arale-speak" like "hoyoyo" and "ncha" becoming popular slang. It was a happy time for manga artists, publishers and fans of manga.

Now, over twenty years later, the conditions surrounding manga have changed. The long-term economic downturn makes things tough on mangaka, publishers and bookstores, and no relief seems to be in sight. However, when you read *Dr. Slump* now, the art, storyline and jokes still seem new and fresh. Toriyama's genius has aged well.

We live in an age of cold and stiff interpersonal relationships. Won't you join the customers of Kingyo Used Books and take a trip back to the good old days?

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Jitsugyo no Nihon Sha
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This series is featured in Chapter 2:
Hokusai Manga

Sarusuberi (3 volumes)

By Hinako Sugiura

Published by Jitsugyo no Nihon Sha in 1986

Sarusuberi depicts the lives of Katsushika Hokusai and his daughter Oei, who were fellow *ukiyo* artists during the apex of Edo culture. The series began running in *Manga Sunday* in 1983, was released in three tankobon by Jitsugyo no Nihon Sha in 1986 (currently out of print) and is now available in two volumes from Chikuma Bunko.

During the rainy season, the *sarusuberi* (or crepe myrtle) is laden with crimson blossoms, which fall to the ground only to bloom once again. The author thought of the haiku by Chiyojo which reads, "Sarusuberi, which fades and blooms and fades and blooms," and ended up using it as her title.

Gasso, the author's first tankobon, was published by Seirindo. Along with Yoko Kondo and Murasaki Yamada, she is one of the esteemed "Three Ladies of Garo." ["Garo no Sannin Musume" – Ed.]

During her time at Nihon University College of Art, Sugiura read the manga of Shohei Kusunoki. This made her realize how deeply she could delve into the Edo period using sequential storytelling. Eventually she stopped creating manga and began working as a scholar of Edo-period culture.

Sarusuberi follows Hokusai as he takes on a variety of work, from *shunga* (erotic prints) and *bijinga* (pictures of beautiful women) to *fukeiga* (landscapes). He draws with a single-mindedness that earns him the name "Gakyo Rojin." ["The Old Man Mad with Painting" – Ed.]

Even in his later years when he becomes a great master, Hokusai continues to challenge himself with new genres. In this way, he makes me think of Osamu Tezuka. Tezuka never let his fame hold him back, and he continued to produce a great quantity of manga and was a pioneer until the very end. Hokusai is the *sarusuberi*, but so is Tezuka.

Hokusai's daughter Oei, on the other hand, never loses herself in art to the extent that her father does. She has the talent to rival Hokusai's own, but she has a calmer temperament. Oei is Sugiura herself. She gained some fame but was never a comfortable fit in the world of manga. Tezuka was someone who lived and breathed manga, but Sugiura was a scholar and also an artist. She could never become Hokusai or Tezuka. Perhaps it was her jealousy of the *sarusuberi*'s energy and strength that allowed her to write this manga.

Murao-kun, who appears in chapter 2 of *Kingyo Used Books*, has an amazing talent, but he ends up destroying all his work. When he says, "Something has ended. something inside me. Because I can't get crazy about art," those are Sugiura's own words. On the other hand, Misaki is someone who can't live without drawing. It is really Misaki who is Hokusai, who is Tezuka, who is the *sarusuberi*. She just needs a little more time to bloom and produce fruit. It seems as though it is Kingyo Used Books that will give her that time. My guess is that this chapter is meant to encourage all the young *sarusuberi* who are still trying to blossom.

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Akebono Shuppan
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This series is featured in Chapter 3:
Far Away

Moretsu Ataro (12 volumes)

By Fujio Akatsuka

Published by Akebono Shuppan beginning in 1969

The gags in Fujio Akatsuka's manga don't make you think, they just make you laugh. Their impact is so strong that one glance is enough to send the reader into gales of hysterical laughter. And once you've started laughing, you're in trouble. Even after you calm down, if you happen to recall the scene in class or at work, it never ends well.

More than any of his other manga, *Moretsu Ataro* (Note 1), which began running in *Shonen Sunday* in 1967, has more than once brought me to tears. All of a sudden the suit-wearing *tanuki* will do something stupid while saying "Haa Pokkun Pokkun!" and then the cat will come in to be the foil for his joke, yelling "Nyarome! Kishome!" The great pacing and uniqueness of the characters had a huge impact on gag manga to the extent that it was called the Akatsuka Gag Revolution. When I went to take my entrance exam for a certain company, the proctor looked so much like Kokoro no Boss (Note 2) that I started laughing and ended up failing the exam. So it's actually thanks to this manga that I work at a used bookstore now.

While the dynamite gags of Akatsuka's manga instantly send the reader into the world of laughter, the work of Sensha Yoshida, which also appears in this chapter, gives the reader a strange sense of exhaustion. Yoshida's work was called absurdist gag manga because the peculiar phrases he uses and the way he combines things, along with the exquisite line work, create a strange, almost Kafka-like atmosphere.

But what exactly is in that endless stretch of bookshelves below Kingyo Used Books? Who is the Boss? Why does he know so much about manga? The mysteries of Kingyo grow ever deeper.

Note 1: The tankobon were released in 1969 from Akebono Shuppan. Currently the Takeshobo bunkobon (nine volumes) are easily attainable. See Akatsuka's home page for details: www.koredeiinoda.net

Note 2: One of the characters in *Moretsu Ataro*, the character who appears in the cover on this page. He is the suited *tanuki* boss who often ends sentences with "no kokoro."

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This series is featured in Chapter 4:
The Boy Detective Arrives

Billy Puck (9 volumes)

By Mitsuhiro Kawashima

Published by Shonen Gahosha beginning in 1956

Billy Puck began running in *Shonen Gaho* in 1954, and at the time, it was one of the most popular series, along with Tsunayoshi Takeuchi's *Akado Suzunosuke*, and is the defining work of Mitsuhiro Kawashima, who was one generation before the Tokiwa So Group. [Tokiwa So was an apartment where Osamu Tezuka and several other mangaka lived, which eventually became a kind of studio for cartoonists.—Ed.] The detailed story, the dynamic art, and the Western-style trench coat and hunting cap, combined with Billy's handsome looks, were the keys to the story's popularity.

However, Kawashima fell ill and died in 1961 at the height of his popularity. Kawashima's apprentice Ruchi Yajima took over the series, but its popularity fell drastically and the series ended in 1962. Osamu Tezuka mourned Kawashima's death, saying, "With his energetic continuity and broad composition, he had the potential to become the best mangaka in the world. If Kawashima had lived, there's no doubt that he would have become the top artist in the industry."

Shonen Gahosha released the series in tankobon twice, but it is currently out of print. The first edition has a particularly high collector's value due to the extremely low numbers printed, and it is the envy of all serious manga fans. I wish they would bring all the volumes back; it was one of the most notable series in manga history.

The story's setup (a boy who waves around a gun, drives around in a car and fights evildoers along with the police) would be used in later series such as *Maboroshi Tantei* and *Tetsujin 28 Go*. It makes you ask, "What about gun laws? What about traffic laws?" but in the manga and movies of the '50s, a hero was forgiven anything as long as he taught boys a sense of justice. "Everyone, Billy is a brave boy who severely punishes evildoers who torment the weak and commit unjust acts behind the backs of policemen. And he does this so those who are honorable may live in peace. I hope that you all become wonderful boys with just hearts like Billy." (Text taken from the author's preface.)

The words *justice* and *brave* seem almost old-fashioned to today's kids, but no values were more important for boys in the '50s. I was bullied as a child, and I wished in my heart for an ally of justice to save me from the outrageous bullying, and there was always at least one kid in my class who would be that for me. In my eyes, he was Billy Puck. So for me, *Billy Puck* is much more than just manga, it taught me about justice and about admiration.

It seems like Seimu Yoshizaki, the author of *Kingyo Used Books*, shares my fond feelings for *Billy Puck*. *Billy Puck* is the series the Boss's granddaughter is assessing in the first chapter, and then it makes a reappearance in this chapter. With the hold this series has on the hearts of manga lovers, it could be called a classic among classics.

BLUEBERRY • Ombres sur Tombstone
© DARGAUD 1995 Charlier & Giraud

This series is featured in Chapter 5:
A Country Without Manga

Blueberry

By Charlier & Giraud

Published by Dargaud beginning in 1965

The series that appears in chapter 5 is Jean Giraud's *Blueberry*. The author Jean Giraud is well-known in Japan under his pen name Moebius. He has worked on many films as a designer and is arguably one of the most famous comic book artists in the world. In France, comics are called BD (bande dessinée), and while in Japan people look to manga for entertainment, French comics are highly praised for their art.

Perhaps that's the reason that not many French comics have been brought to Japan. Translations of *Blueberry* are available in many countries, but it has never been published in Japan. As a manga fan, that only makes me want to read it more. A live-action movie has recently been released in France, so I hope they'll use this chance to release the comic along with it.

Giraud is still working on the series, which he began in his teens. The series could be classified as a French-style Western, and the bold plot, fierce originality of the hero and polished artwork have garnered it much attention. It's also well-known for the influence it had on the "New Wave," led by the work of Katsuhiro Otomo, which hit Japan's manga world in the 1980s.

However, there was only one Japanese mangaka who was not only influenced by the series but was able to make the world of the comic his own. Thirty years ago, a single page in a magazine lent to him by a friend had a huge influence on one mangaka. It was Jiro Taniguchi, who was drawing a series for a third-class comic magazine but still had yet to find his own unique style. With that single page, he realized instantly what he wanted to express through manga. Destiny had brought those two mangaka together. After that, he collected all of Jean Giraud's works, as though possessed, and began to express something Giraud-like in his own manga. It was a turning point for his work.

Thirty years later, Jiro and Giraud released their first collaboration called *Ikaru. A Distant Neighborhood*, Taniguchi's most recent work, won all three of Europe's biggest manga awards. France has finally accepted Japan's manga, which it had previously ridiculed for "only drawing violence and sex." A French comic boom may not be far behind.

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This series is featured in Chapter 6: Fujiomi-kun

The Chizumi and Fujiomi-kun Series (3 volumes)

By Kyoko Hikawa

Published by Hakusensha beginning in 1980

The series featured in chapter six is Kyoko Hikawa's debut work, *Chizumi and Fujiomi-kun*. The series first appeared with *Akikaze Yurete* in the *LaLa Deluxe* Winter Issue in February of 1979. It continued until 1985's *Giniro Ehon* and was collected into three volumes, which are now out of print. Recently it was re-released in bunko format (see note below).

Many of the manga titles adored by girls in the '80s are once again in demand. For example, Yoko Shoji's masterpiece *Setto Shokun!* was re-released by popular demand. *Chizumi and Fujiomi-kun* must be another of those that women want to see again.

The women who were in their teens when the series ran in the magazine are now in their mid-thirties. Their days are very busy. Maybe they have started to remember the shojo manga that once set their hearts aflutter.

Fujiomi-kun is an athlete, a man of few words but full of compassion. He would never cheat; instead he gives everything he has to protect one woman. Chizumi is unreliable and clumsy, but she has a great inner strength. The two characters may seem overly stereotypical today, but they had a huge impact on girls back then.

Chizumi is always trying to do her best. Fujiomi-kun is deeply in love with her, but he remains resolute. Chizumi is both grateful for and respectful of him. Maybe it's those things that we've forgotten—resolution, gratitude and respect—that make this manga shine.

We read the romance manga of the '80s to cheer up our tired hearts. At Kingyo Used Books, those cheerful books are sitting on the shelves, waiting to be rediscovered.

Note: The Hakusensha bunko editions of *Haru wo Matsu Koro* and *Ginro Ehon* are currently the most widely available.

[Kyoko Hikawa's 14-volume fantasy series *From Far Away* (*Kanatakara*) was published in English by VIZ Media—Ed.]

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This title is featured in Chapter 7:
The Sedori Business

Magnolia Sho (1 volume)

By Yukiko Kai

Published by Akita Shoten in 1981

The manga featured in chapter seven is Yukiko Kai's *Magnolia Sho*. It was published in *Princess* in 1979 and released as a tankobon (Princess Comics) in 1981 and also in bunko format in 1999 (see note below).

Yukiko Kai worked as an assistant to Moto Hagio and debuted in 1976 with *Anastasia no Sutekina Otonari*. She gained popularity with a body of work featuring delicate, aesthetic fantasies. She passed away from stomach cancer at age 26.

According to the wishes of her readers, five volumes of her collected works were published after her death with a eulogy by Moto Hagio and Shio Sato in the appendix. In 1982 a special Yukiko Kai tribute issue of *Ryu* magazine was released. It was an unprecedented response to the death of a mangaka.

Her death was a major event for fans who were reading her work at the time. How must they have felt when their connection between reader and author was cut so short?

Shio Sato's eulogy described their feelings.

"A whole world of possibilities was cut short; the end has come without being able to see what had been and what would be possible. What a pity that is, for her and for the people around her."

After this, Kai's work passed into legend. Her readers chose to honor her memory by continuing to read and talk about her work. One woman said, "Characters so cold and beautiful they give you shivers, the elaborately planned plots, the beauty of destruction that reminds you of Mishima [Yukio] or Dazai [Osamu]. Kai-san's work deserves to have a place in the future."

Oh, the indomitable Yukiko Kai! If you want to read all of her work, your only choice is to go to Kingyo Used Books. I'm sure the sedori have provided them with the super-rare first editions still with their original obi book bands.

Note: The Akita Shoten Bunko edition is the most widely available.

The information in this volume is current up to December 2004. This includes all manga footnotes and all the columns comprising the Kingyo Used Books Notebook.

Thanks to every creator, publisher and property owner of manga titles mentioned in this volume for your understanding and cooperation.

Information provided by Gendai Manga Toshokan/Kirara Bunko.

KINGYO USED BOOKS

Volume 1

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by **SEIMU YOSHIZAKI**

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Kingyo = Goldfish

Seimu Yoshizaki was born in Kanagawa, Japan. She made her manga debut with *Aka-chan to Tenshi* (Baby and Angel) in 1989. Aside from *Kingyo Used Books*, which is currently being serialized in *IKKI* magazine, she is the creator of many other titles, including *Telekinesis (Yamanote TV Kinema Room)*, *Ugokashiya*, *Kaban Toshokan* and *Deka Girl*.

This book reads from right to left.

Kingyo Used Books 1

In this volume:

	A manga series based on the life of Katsushika Hokusai sparks an art student's inspiration.
	The playful antics of a gag manga help an archer revive his focus.
	An old detective manga series from the fifties changes the life of a young man from America.
	A Western series from France proves that good comics can be found all over the world.
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